

# LETTERS

OF

## BARON BIELFELD,

SECRETARY of LEGATION to the KING of PRUSSIA; PRECEPTOR to PRINCE FERDINAND; CHANCELLOR of the UNIVERSITYS in the Dominions of his Prussian Majesty, F. R. A. B. &c. Author of the POLITICAL INSTITUTES.

CONTAINING

Original ANECDOTES of the PRUSSIAN COURT for the last Twenty Years.

Translated from the GERMAN,

By Mr. H O O P E R.

In Two VOLUMES.

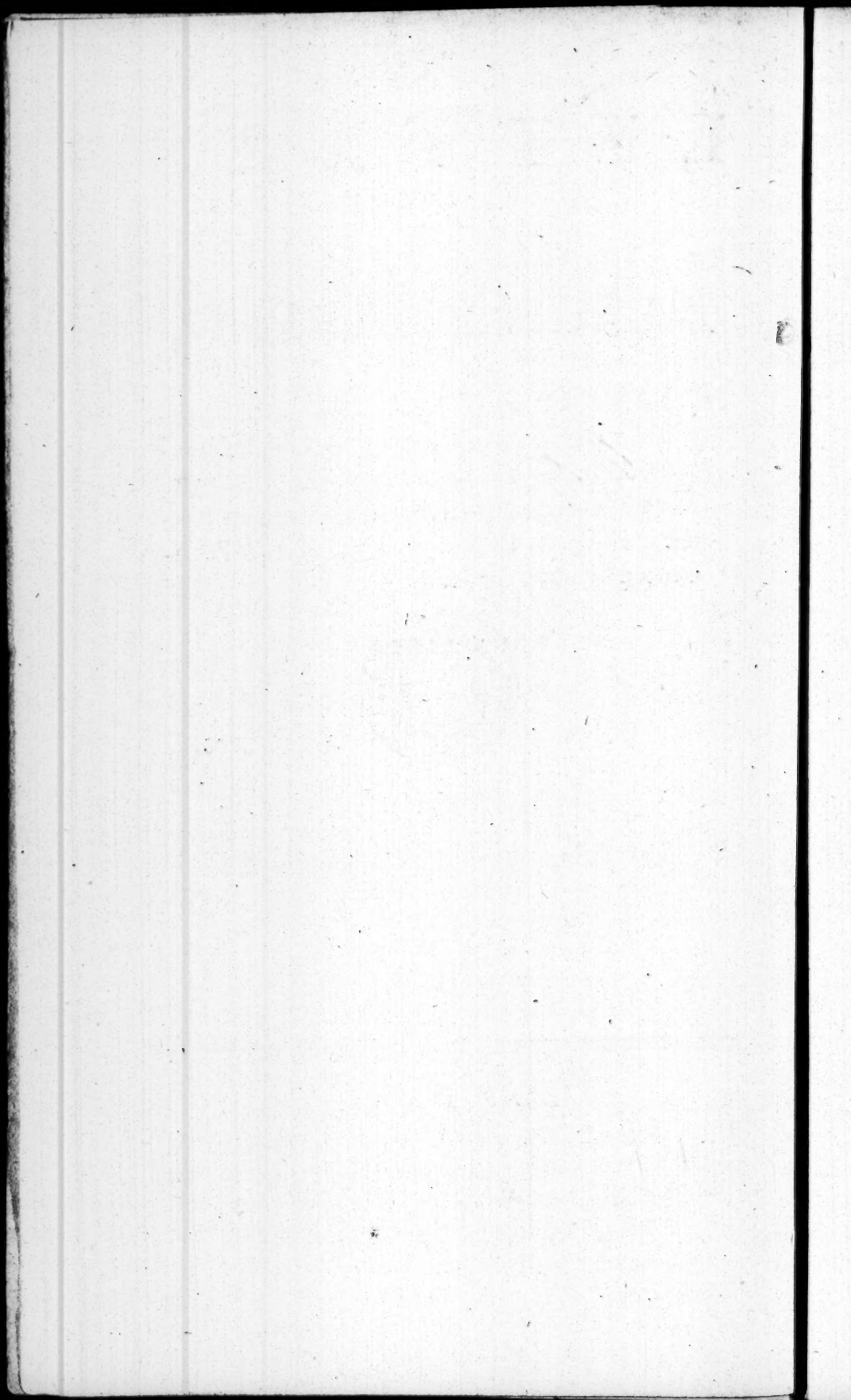
VOL. I.

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L O N D O N :

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To Her most Sacred Majesty,

# CHARLOTTE,

QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

May it please your Majesty,

**A** Learned and polite German, who has lately assumed an English dress, begs leave to lay himself at your Majestys feet. Was that dress necessary on this occasion? No: but long practised in the devoirs of a court, he naturally appears before a sovereign princess in that mode which of all others she esteems the most.

As the following pages, Madam, contain the most remarkable anecdotes, in twenty of the last years, of a German court, that is the residence of the northern star; of a court, that for the encouragement of learning and

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the improvement of taste; for the sagacity and extent of design, and the vigor and rapidity of execution, is beheld with high respect and admiration by every power of Europe; and of a court that has the honor to be nearly allyd to that of Great Britain; it is humbly presumed that they will not be displeasing to your majesty.

Many and great are the advantages these kingdoms have derived from Germany; but especially when she gave them that great prince, who came to set his seal to the libertys of Britain; and under the auspicious reigns, of whose august successors, these nations have arrived to a height of power, of riches, of renown, and extent of dominion, to which the fondest hopes of their forefathers dared not to aspire. Many and great are the obligations these kingdoms have to that empire; but, above all, for her last, best gift, a prince

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## DEDICATION. v

cess, whose character beggars all panegyric; for the fertility of invention and the vigor of discernment; the sublimity of science, and the poignancy of wit, the refinements of taste, the energy of spirit, and the allurements of urbanity, are but as bubbles that float upon the surface of the deep, when compared with the virtues that enrich the heart of the Queen of Great Britain.

That your Majesty may long, very long remain, a bright example of the perfection of conjugal, maternal, and roial excellence: that you may be the perpetual solace and joy of a monarch, whose exalted merit entitles him to be the sovereign, as He is confessedly the friend, of all mankind: that you may bless these nations with a numerous race of patriot princes, who, for long succeeding ages, may reign in the hearts of a great and free people: who  
may



may be the supreme umpires amidst the contending powers of Europe: who may hurl the British thunder on the guilty, and extend their benign aid and protection, to the injurd and oppressd, among the most distant nations of the earth: is the constant, ardent wish, of every rightful son of Britain; but of none more ardently, than of

Your Majestys

Most devoted Servant,

W. HOOPER.

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# LETTER I.

To Madam von \* \* \*, at Berlin.

*Breslaw, July 20, 1741.*

**I** AM just returnd from the camp by Strehle, where I had the honor of waiting on his majesty. In this camp are seen those of Alexander and Darius united : it has the fame, the spirit, and discipline of the former, the grandeur and gaiety of the latter. Here you may purchase every kind of merchandise, even to rich laces and jewels ; so that one seems to be in the midst of some great fair. The small town of Strehle, which is but a cannonshot from the

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camp,

camp, is crowded with strangers; with ministers, courtiers, merchants, and, above all, with officers ladys; these last form the magnet of love, that draws all things to itself. Here the sons of Mars repair, to obtain a recompense for the toils of war, in the arms of their fair ones. But these ladys are not all brought hither by motives equally laudable; for here you see a company of honorable dames, conducted by Hymen, to the enjoyment of tender and sincere delights; and there a band of wandering nymphs, from the high court of Venus, compelled by love, and the inconstancy of fortune, to follow the footsteps of the army.

Among the foreign ministers, the duke of Bellisle, and the marquis of Montigo, are those that make the greatest eclat; the former ambassadour from the court of France, and the other from that of Spain, to attend at Francfort the election and coronation of the new emperour. The  
portraits

portraits of these distinguisht and respected ministers, have been drawn by so many able pens, that I was desirous of making a sketch of them myself, but have not had the honor of a sufficient acquaintance, to do it effectually; indeed scarce have I had any opportunity of discovering their real characters; therefore can only say, in general, that they appear to be sagacious statesmen, able ministers, finishd courtiers, and as learnd as amiable gentlemen.

Each of these ministers makes a most brilliant figur, and never have I seen any one travel with more ease and convenience, more elegance and grandeur, than does the marquis of Montigo; wherever he stops to dine or sup, he finds a room hung with the richest tapestry, the floor coverd with Turkey carpets; with velvet chairs, and every other kind of convenience; a table sumptuously servd, the choicest wines, and a dessert of fruit



and confects, that Paris itself could not excel. This kind of enchantment, this real miracle in Germany, is performed by means of three baggage-wagons, of which two always go before the ambassadour, and carry with them every thing necessary for his reception; and when they arrive in some poor village, the domestics that accompany each waggon immediately clear and clean some chamber, fix the tapestry by rings to the walls, cover the floor with carpets, and furnish the kitchen and cellar with every kind of necessary.

The first day the marquis of Montigo arrived in the camp, he had the honor of dining with the king; but as it is not his majestys custom to sup, the ambassadour returnd in the evening to Strehle, where we, the baron of Pollnitz, M. Jordan, and I, met him walking with M. Caravachal, the first gentleman of his retinue: he seemed somewhat discontented, and at  
a loss

a loss to know where to spend the evening; we took the liberty therefore to invite him to a collation; to such a one as we could expect to make extempore; and immediately set our domestics on the hunt, with orders to beat up every quarter, and to spare no expence to provide the best entertainment the town could afford; but every sort of provision was consumed, and we were forced to offer a very wretched supper. However, we put a good face on the matter, endeavouring to atone for other defects by mirth and gaiety; and to make it the more agreeable, we invited a young demoiselle, called Louisa von Strehle, who happened to be quite to the ambassadours taste; was sensible of it, improved it, and became extreme good company; so that the poorest entertainment in the world became one of the most agreeable.

The marquis was so well pleased, that he invited us all to dine with him the

next day. We were well satisfied that in point of provisions, he would find himself in the same dilemma that we had been; but how great was our astonishment when we came and saw a table covered with so great a profusion of delicacies, that the first cities of Europe could not have furnished a better. We were now more than ever ashamed of our slender repast, and were forced to acknowledge, that in any civilized part of the world, it is possible with money and industry to provide an elegant retreat.

The review the king was to make of his cavalry is over, they were found complete, and in excellent order. Since the departure of the ambassadors the appearance of the army is quite changed; and it seems to me as if his majesty intended to break up the camp, in order to finish the conquest of Silesia. All the foreign ministers as well as the officers

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ficers ladys have left Strehle, and are returned to Bresslaw. The king has granted us leave, and me in particular has ordered, to return to this city, and here to wait his commands. I obeyed his majesty with great pleasure; and the more, as after eighteen months rambling about, I am glad of a little rest.

I cannot conclude, Madam, without assuring you, that notwithstanding all the fatigues of war, the king is in perfect health, and more gay and pleasant than ever; and all who approach his majesty, meet with a most gracious reception. In the midst of his camp, and at the head of sixty thousand Prussians, our monarch appears to me, with a new and superior air of greatness.

I have the honor to be, &c.





## L E T T E R   I I .

To M. von M \* \* \*, at Hanover.

*Breslaw, Aug. 3, 1741.*

**I** F I N D myself quite at my ease in Breslaw, and pass my time in the most agreeable manner in the world. I live with my friend Jordan, in the house of a very worthy man, M. Gimsch, the banker; where the countess of Stubeck was so good as to make room for us. Here we live a life full of learned amusement. The morning is passed with breakfast, reading, and writing. From eleven to half twelve we dress, and when twelve strikes we go to M. Korns, the kings bookseller, where all men of letters that are in the town, and all lovers of news, resort; for here they meet with  
every

every thing that is new in the worlds of learning and politics. At one, we return home, where we find a good dinner provided for us. The afternoon is devoted to those visits of ceremony which a certain rank in life requires; and in the evening we go to the assembly; for there is one every night at one of the seven following houses, by rotation: his eminence the cardinal of Sinzendorf, the lady marechal, the countess of Wilscheck, the counts of Hoberg, of Nostitz, and of Almenflo, and the barons of Wargotsch and Sweerts.

The assembly consists of a very polite and numerous company; and every stranger that is known is extremely well received. We are received here as courtiers of the king of Prussia, and consequently as those who enjoy his grace and favor, and therefore no bounds are set to the politeness with which we are treated. And though I am far from be-

ing insensible to these civilities, and take every opportunity of acknowledging them, yet I cannot choose but inwardly laugh when I observe the stately port of some of the chief of the Austrian nobility; and cant help thinking when I enter their houses, how much I am obliged to sixty thousand Prussians for this gracious reception. Do not conclude however from this, that I am under any temptation to give myself airs of arrogance or importance; far otherwise; I take a more than ordinary care to show all possible marks of civility and condescension; and it is to this conduct I owe, that I find myself more loved than feared in Breslaw.

There are also here messieurs Munchow and Rienhard, the king of Prussias directors and commissarys for the war in Silesia; M. von Marwitz, lieutenant-general and commandant of the town; the countesses of Kamecken, of Haak, and

and of Wartensleben ; madams von Horn, and von Thiel, with other ladys of Berlin, whose husbands have posts in the army. Lord Hyndford, ambassadour from Great Britain ; the marquis of Villeroy, ambassadour from France ; baron Ginckel ; general Pretorius, and M. Rudens, respectively ambassadours from Holland, Denmark, and Sweden ; the count of Thoring, and the chevalier De la Rosée, as ministers from the court of Bavaria ; M. von Bulow, ambassadour from Poland ; and M. von Schweichelt, ambassadour from Hanover ; and lastly, the cousin of our state minister, that worthy gentleman, M. Podewils, who is lately returned from Russia ; and M. Vokerodt, privy councillor in the department for foreign affairs ; a very learned, able and active man ; with both of these I have contracted a close friendship. Of the celebrated baron Pollnitz I say nothing, as you well know that I have for



a long time been honored with his intimate acquaintance. And, to make the company complete, we expect every day the count of Algarotti, who is on his return from his journey to Turin.

My favourite house in Breslaw is that of baron W——'s, and for these reasons; I am received here, with open arms, at all hours of the day, without restraint or compliment. The host is one of the best sort of men in the world, with which he has a large acquaintance: he loves good company, a good table, and play. His wife is made of the best stuff that God ever made a woman; only there is a little too much of her in length and breadth. She has much good sense, and says, with the voice of thunder, many polite and agreeable things. She makes incomparable good verses too, but in German. She loves company, and to pass a joyous evening with her friends.

friends: Her kitchen is perfectly well stored.

But the strongest attractions to her house, are her two amiable nieces, the Mademoiselles St. —, who live with her. My understanding has declared for the eldest, and my heart for the youngest. Never have I seen such brilliant eyes, and lovely auburne hair. She has great strength of judgment, joined to a refined subtilty of wit: a discreet and delicate gaiety: a certain pleasing manner in her conversation: great prudence of behaviour, and a soul perfectly virtuous. All strangers that come here sacrifice to her charms. I take no small pains to stand foremost in the rank of her devotees: but, alas! I have a tremendous rival in the person of my best friend. The philosophy of the honest, worthy Jordans, has received a terrible shock from the force of so many charms; for I perceive him more smitten than a young beau.

He

He has the peculiar talent of discovering his passion, by some secret method, to her that is the object of it. She told him the other day that Insensibility was her distinguishing character. M. Jordan thought therefore that he must combat with this insensibility, and wrote her a gallant letter in the name of Sensibility, which I here send you, Sir, as it may perhaps afford you some entertainment, especially when you know its drole consequence.

Mademoiselle,

THE impulse of an honorable passion compels me to write to you; no other motive could justify so great a liberty, as I well know how much a lady thinks of a letter that comes from a man. “For  
“each blooming nymph believes it a  
“heinous crime, to peruse such epistles,  
“and why? because in her opinion,  
“therein

“ therein lurks a dangerous poison \*.”

This poison however is not so dangerous, as that insensibility which you so readily give place to in your heart. “ Oh! no,

“ you cannot harbour so cruel a design;

“ insensibility is an enemy to humanity.

“ To know therefore what you are, and

“ yet to fly from love, is it not contrary

“ to nature? you know it is.” However

in public, madam, I readily con-

sent that you parade with this pretence,

as the best means of ridding yourself of

that heap of importunate supplicants,

which your charms have drawn together.

“ For where your youth and beauty are

“ so happily blended, it is no wonder to

“ see a crowd of admirers. But yet

“ when so many of them are lying at your

“ feet, to assume a sorrowful countenance

“ seems however somewhat mal-a-propos.”

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\* The passages printed between inverted commas were wrote in the original in rhyme.



But is not this insensibility, it may be said, the offspring of self-love? No! it is founded on a nobler principle, on a transcendent dignity of soul. “As the  
“conqueror seated in his triumphant car,  
“drawn by fame and honor, and transported with lofty thoughts, can scarce  
“vouchsafe to cast a transient glance  
“on the splendid pomp that surrounds  
“him.” But suppose, madam, you should see at your feet, a man gay and agreeable, animated with a sincere respect, and dying for love, could you then be perfectly insensible? “It were cruel to  
“treat so much merit with so great indifference. Prudence requires it not;  
“I will make room for him; but you  
“must away with pride and vain-glory.” For such insensibility and pride are as like each other as two drops of water. There seems, if I dare to say it, too much presumption in such a resolution. Do you flatter yourself that you shall for  
ever

ever remain mistress of your heart? "No!  
 " thou erreſt, moſt excellent fair one ;  
 " it is eaſy to indulge in that proud  
 " thought; but, alas! Sylvia, the critical  
 " time will come, when in a moment  
 " your heart ſhall be robbed of its free-  
 " dom." This is the great work of the  
 governor, or, if you pleaſe, the tyrant of  
 our community. You know him not,  
 but you will know him, and he will de-  
 lude you under the maſk of friendſhip.  
 " It is that which firſt ſoftens the heart ;  
 " as a friend the courtier makes but  
 " half a conqueſt ; but take care ! or by  
 " the aid of love, he will quickly com-  
 " plete the victory." You ſee, madam,  
 how eaſily you may be deprived of what  
 you ſo highly boaſt; for you will not  
 quarrel with friendſhip for the ſake of  
 inſenſibility. I will readily allow that  
 the party you eſpouſe is recommended  
 by prudence, but do not flatter yourſelf  
 too

too much on that account. " For oft-  
" times they who boast of their strength  
" and courage, when difficulty and dan-  
" ger beset them, quickly shew how  
" little right they have to such great pre-  
" tensions." For this virtue, if it be a  
virtue, you are to thank your mind, not  
your heart; nature has made you sen-  
sible, and discretion would make you in-  
sensible. " I who am chiefly known to  
" the learned world, and little under-  
" stand of the difficult art of pleasing:  
" I love, 'tis true, but I love as a pe-  
" dant, and therefore has the god of love  
" deprived me of his grace." Here ends  
my troublesome epistle. I am, with  
the most perfect respect, madam,

Your most humble servant,

SENSIBILITY.

Ma-

Mademoiselle St. — found this letter very witty and polite; for by flattering her self-love, it appeared more perfect than perhaps in fact it is : however, she could not resolve to write any answer, but treated the whole as a piece of pleasantry. She shewed it to young P——, who took a copy of it, and wrote a very obliging answer in the ladys name; and in the verses he interspersed in his answer, he made use of the same rhimes as M. Jordan had done in his letter. As I took no copy, I can only remember that the beginning ran thus :

S I R,

IF there were less wit and gallantry in your letter, it would be impossible to suppose you the author ; but where there are so many brilliant traits, so many polished turns of expression, you are easy to be discovered. “ Every one says, and “ I think without transgressing, that no- “ body is better versed than you in the “ diffi-



“ difficult art of pleasing. But why a-  
“ void your writing ? because therein is  
“ concealed an alluring wit, a dangerous  
“ poison \*.” At least, Sir, I know no  
man that can make a better conceal-  
ment of this kind than yourself ; and this  
confirms me in the resolution I have al-  
ready taken, &c. for I have forgot the  
rest.

M. P—— read this answer to the a-  
morous Jordan in the assembly, privately,  
and as if he had just received it from  
Mademoiselle St. —— . He immedi-  
ately slipd out of the room, to read it  
to himself in the antichamber, and re-  
turnd with so triumphant an air, that I  
could easily see the perfect joy of his soul  
sparkling in his eyes, tho I could not  
guess the cause. We had just before

---

\* This passage is likewise wrote in verse, and has  
the same rhyme with the first of those in Sensibility’s  
letter.

invited M. P—— and M. Vockerodt to sup with us after the assembly. M. Jordan came to me, and desired that I would leave off play as soon as possible, and go home with him, for that he had something of consequence to communicate. We ended our play in fact very early, and went home with our two guests.

Immediately the impatient Jordan read us the answer he had received; and his passion found it a thousand times more witty than it really was. He did not doubt a moment but that the all-accomplished St. —— was the author of it. Mr. Vockerodt confirmed him in this opinion, and congratulated him on his good fortune. But the arch droll P—— bit his lips, and seemed to think there were several passages in it liable to exception. For my part, I could not withhold my approbation; but at the same time, with a heart full of jealousy, the author of it appeared to me far less  
ami-

amiable than I had once thought her. We passed the whole evening with talking of nothing but the divine St. — — ; we drank her health a thousand times ; I drank it gaily, but the joy did not come from my heart ; it was with my mouth only that I laughed. I threw myself afterwards on the bed, full of wild imaginations, and in the midst of grief and confusion, fell asleep.

The next morning M. P — — drew me out of all my anxiety, without knowing it ; for he told me in confidence, that the answer was of his making, and that our fair one had not had the least hand in it. I found myself immediately animated with a fresh zeal, and determined to use all possible means to gain her heart. I have already got the start of my friend Jordan ; and as we treat this affair in the presence of each other, as a matter of gaiety, I flatter myself that the success with which our labors may

may be alternately crown'd, will not in the least wound that tender friendship which subsists between us.

The utmost of our intentions goes no further than to gain the esteem of this unrivalled beauty: we rate her far too high to think of any thing more; for her virtue as well as her birth, command us to join the highest sense of delicacy, with the profoundest respect and veneration. As to what regards the band of wedlock, my friend and fellow laborer in love, thinks himself too old, and I, myself too young, to entertain any thoughts of it. The sacrifice that we offer therefore, is free from all self-interest: all jealousy is banish'd, and we mix with our passion much humor and pleasantry.

I wish however that it may stop here, and that my heart may not be caught in good earnest; for I find I have need of the greatest caution, to guard against  
the



the most charming of all passions, if I would preserve that happiness of life which is founded in freedom; therefore in opposition to it, I set no bounds to my friendship, and above all to that, which I shall at all times preserve for you, to the last moment of my life.



## L E T T E R . III.

To M. von M \* \* \*, at Hanover.

*Breslaw, August 12, 1741.*

**H**OW unfortunate is idleness for a young man that has been used to business. In England, when I had many difficulties to encounter, I despised the dangers of love. The charms of the most perfect beautys made not the least impression on my soul. Yes! the allurements of love were utter strangers to my heart.

heart. But now, that I have nothing to pursue but my pleasure, all my inclinations lead to the amorous passion. And now, Sir, behold I wear the chains of two lovely conquerors, at once. What will be the consequence I know not; for they say when the tender passion has once taken root, it every day grows more strong.

It gives me some satisfaction, however, to find that my weakness does not displease you: and it will give me a very sensible pleasure if you would regard me as some hero of romance, or theatric prince, who is continually amusing some one or other with the story of his love; that I might think myself entitled to give you a relation of mine: well then, here you have it in two words.

I have already acquainted you how strongly my heart was attached to the lovely St. ——. This inclination I found daily increasing, and I was on the point

of giving up my heart to the most tender and violent affection for that incomparable beauty, when an opposite passion seems to have stifled that pleasing fire. I was at the assembly; Mademoiselle St. — — was not there; and as my eyes roved about the room with an idle curiosity, I saw, with a most pleasing, inexpressible sensation, a strange lady enter. She seemd to be about eight and twenty; her figur was natural, easy and elegant, accompanyd with an air of nobility; in every part of her behaviour there was something pleasing and graceful; and without being a perfect beauty, she had certain regular and distinguishing strokes that adorn'd her whole person: her large blue eyes were at once piercing and tender: her hair was rather of a light brown, than flaxen; and her countenance highly animated. I asked who she was, and they told me it was madam von C — —, that her husband was in the army with  
the

the king, and that she was come to pass away the time of the campaign in Breslaw.

I immediately mixd with the crowd that surrounded this lady, and found an uncommon desire to be taken notice of by her: but as she seemd to pay but little regard to my person, I withdrew to another part of the room; from whence I observd her in conversation with M. P——, with whom she was acquainted. About half an hour after the ladys prepar'd for play; and as she was no stranger to the place, M. P—— proposd a party at quadrille, with her, the countess of Nostitz, himself, and a friend of his: this friend was me. She answerd, as I was afterwards told, I am perfectly well contented with Madam von Nostitz, and you, Sir, but the fourth party I have in my eye, if he be not already engaged. She came in fact cross the room, to where I was talking with somebody in a window, and to my great surprise, coming



up to me with a card in her hand, askd me to be of her party. This offer, with so much freedom, appeard to me to be something more than a bare civility. I handed her to the table that was prepard for us, and when we came up to it, see, Sir, says she, this is our fourth party. Ha! madam, answerd Mr. P——, why that is the very friend I had designd for you; whence comes it that he has so quickly obtaind the honor of your acquaintance? She blushd a little at these words, and her blushes gave a new lustre to her charms.

We sat down to play. A few stolen glances; a casual rencounter of the eyes; marks of attention to, and aprobatation of, every thing that I said: a complacent smile; at intervals, a certain absence of mind: all these affected me so much, that I was under no small concern for my heart: however I had courage enough left to ask leave to wait on her the next day.

day. This she forbade; but in so gentle a manner, that I made not the least hesitation the following day about noon, to pay her a visit.

I was extremely well receivd. We were alone: when with great circum-spection, and many choice words, I venturd to declare, the sudden impression, that the first sight of her charms, had made on my soul. She answerd me with a refined art, and with wonderful delicacy; yet so, that I could easily perceive, there reigned a sort of sympathy in our minds, and in our hearts: and yet we were mutually and equally struck at the first sight of each other. A new sprung passion is ever dexterous, at devising means by which it may encrease, and overcome all obstacles. We availed ourselves of a contrivance of this kind, to avoid the difficulty that usually attends the making of partys, in an assembly. We likewise agreed, for the futur,

to converse with each other only as strangers, that were subjects of the same prince; and that in public as little as possible.

Madam von C—— has kept her word. There passes no day that I have not the pleasure of waiting on her at her house; or at least of seeing her at the assembly. But, alas! my dear friend, I drink, at these interviews, large intoxicating draughts, that prey upon my heart, and seem to steal from me that pleasure which I lately found in the conversation of Mademoiselle St. ——.

My friend Jordan, who has markd my rising passion, endeavours to support the former one, and tells me that I do not act like a man of strict honor, to seek to excite a passion in a young lady, to which I cannot seriously think of making a suitable return. I see this young lady daily with pleasure, but I find not that rapturous emotion in my soul, which the  
pre-

presence of Madam von C—— constantly excites.

What think you of all this, my dear friend ? am I really in love ? and is it possible to associate this passion with that which I have already declared for the lovely St.—— ? Will not my reputation, my sincerity, my honor suffer in this business ? Aid me quickly with your best council ; for as you know not either of the parties, you must be free from prejudice ; and reason and justice alone will direct your judgment. I embrace you affectionately,

And have the honor to be, &c.

L E T T E R .





## L E T T E R IV.

To M. Lamprecht, at Berlin.

*Breslaw, August 15, 1741.*

**S**O, you have got to Berlin likewise, and think there to make your fortune. I hope you will never have occasion to alter your opinion; for the barren land of Brandenburg will henceforth become a fruitful soil, in which the king's hand shall make ability and merit flourish abundantly: a soil in which not the native only, but all foreign plants will grow with great increase.

Only make yourself known, and never doubt of making your fortune. You come indeed at an unprofitable season of the year, when our sovereign is totally engrossed by his army. For it is in summer

mer that Mars directs the heroes to gather their laurels. We must hope however that the war will permit the king in the winter to sacrifice to the Muses; and that he will then return to his capital. I flatter myself that I shall have the honor of attending his majesty there: In the mean time, we lead a very peaceful, and I had almost said, a pleasant life in Breslaw, considering that the fury of war lays the country waste all around us; for this town resembles a salamander in the midst of a fire.

There is so great an inactivity here, that I should have died long since if I had not found the means of killing the time by different diversions. The mornings I devote to study, and for some time past I have employd myself with translating from the French into German, "M. Montesquieu's Considerations on the Cause of the Greatness and Downfal of

“the Roman People.” This is a book that I have read more than once with a great deal of pleasure. It came out when I was at Paris, and was at first so badly receivd, that they even calld it in derision, “the downfal of Montesquieu:” so that suffering myself to be carryd away by the false opinion of the French, I read it only slightly over. But how great was my surprize the last time I was in London, to find this book in every bodys hand; and to hear the most learned men speak of it with admiration: the more I examin this work, the more I am convinced of my former error.

You know, my dear friend, nobody better, that there was a time in Germany when the Belles Lettres lay sighing at the feet of the pedagogue, who would not vouchsafe to call on the Graces, even when most in need of them. Rhetoric, the art of speaking and writing with propriety and elegance, was monstrously disguised.

guised. The German style was prolix, ridiculously swelling, full of high sounding words, and farfetchd expressions; and our language, naturally rich and fruitful, was filld with an endless train of Latin, Italian, and French words, to which were tagd German terminations.

This discordant jumble, instead of softning a language that seems to be derived from the old Sclavonian, makes it still harsher; more dissonant to the ear. And this I presume is one cause among others, of that distaste or aversion which the king our sovereign has for his mother tongue. He understands it, but rarely makes use of it. I remember his majesty once said to me, That he did not think it possible to translate a well wrote French book into German, with equal force and concision, without making use of some foreign expression. I was in fact of the same opinion; but during my idle attendance at Breslaw, observing this book



constantly lying on the table of my friend Jordan; and reflecting that there was scarce any French work wrote with more accuracy and brevity than this, I determin'd to try to translate, as well the correct expression as weighty contents, into German.

I here send you, Sir, the copy of my translation. You will find that without the least omission I am still shorter in German than M. Montesquieu in French; and yet I have not made use of a single expression, not one term of art, that is not German, and pure German too. You will yourself judge, whether my style, with this remarkable brevity, be clear and correct; as it must be if it justly resemble the excellent original. I entreat you to give me your opinion without reserve; and that you will favor me with your remarks wherever you think necessary: for as my design is, to please the learned world, I rejoice to find a

friend like you, that will show me my errors and defects.

I will not conceal from you, Sir, that here and there I met with no small difficulty, in expressing the masterly strokes of this author, in our language. I will give one example only, which is in the 22d chapter, at the 213th page of my edition, where speaking of Theology, he says, “ We can no more decide in their  
 “ debates, by attending to their subtil-  
 “ tys, than we can abolish duelling, by  
 “ establishing schools, where they refine  
 “ upon the point of honor.” *On ne peut pas plus finir leurs affaires en écoutant leur subtilités, qu'on ne pourroit abolir les duels, en établissant des écoles, où l'on raffi-  
 nerait sur le point d'honneur.* This point d'honneur perplexed me not a little; for tho we know very well in Germany what it means, yet we have no word whereby to express it. I have not once made use of a paraphrase; and this makes me sus-  
 pect,

pect, that the thing itself is not well understood.

There are some passages in this book, where tho the language be elegant, and where the author seems to have taken some pains to excel, yet they seem to me somewhat obscure: and there are others where the thoughts are not strictly just, tho the expression be highly beautiful; of the latter sort is that where he speaks of the late king of Prussia, and of the motives that induced him to make so large an augmentation in his army. However, we must do him the justice to own, that if there be some faults in his work, there are not many; and that, take it for all in all, it has no equal in its kind.

I had the honor of being acquainted with M. Montesquieu in Paris: and altho president of the parliament of Bourdeaux, and loaded with literary honors, and of an age far superior to mine, he had the goodness and condescension to  
regard

regard me as a young stranger, that was desirous of learning the language, the manners, and police of the French nation; and to shew me a thousand civilities. I have letters of his that I preserve as precious relicks, for they are so many chef-d'oeuvres of their kind. He mentions in one of them his arrival at Paris, and says, " That he was immersed  
 " in the business and dissipations of the  
 " great world; and that his journey to  
 " the capital led to his grave, but that  
 " it was however through a way strewd  
 " with flowers." Another time speaking of the weakness of his sight, he says, with an air of philosophic gaiety, " My  
 " friend, I lose every day an eye." It will give me great satisfaction to present this truly venerable old author, with a German translation of a book, which in his own opinion he prefers to all his other works. I sent him word of my design as soon as I had began it, and he an-  
 I fwerd



swerd me with his usual pleasantry ; “ So  
“ then you intend to bring the Germans  
“ acquainted with my Roman freeboot-  
“ ers ?” But he let me see that in fact  
a translation would please him ; and that  
was a sufficient inducement to me, to  
finish it as soon as possible.

Shall I presume, my dear friend, to  
trouble you with revising this manuscript,  
and getting it printed in Berlin. I shall  
make the bookseller a present of it, for  
I desire only a dozen copys, to distribute  
among some of my best friends. I have  
dedicated this first fruit of my pen, to  
baron Kaiferling, baron Knobelsdorf and  
M. Jordan, as a pure sacrifice of my  
heart. The dedication you will find in  
the same packet with the manuscript.  
You will do me the favor to see that  
it be correctly printed, and that the paper  
be good : for the pleasure of reading a  
book is considerably augmented by its be-  
ing well printed. On all occasions you  
have

## L E T T E R V. 41

have but to command me, whenever I can serve you. It will give me a very sensible pleasure to embrace you this winter in Berlin, and there to render you any service in person; for no man in the world is more sincerely than I, &c.



## L E T T E R V.

To M. von M \* \* \*, at Hanover.

*Breslaw, Sept. 26, 1741.*

**M**Y situation in Breslaw becomes every day more agreeable. I here enjoy perfect health, and am at that time of life in which a man has a relish for pleasure: here I meet with a great number of my old friends, and have made yet more new ones: my purse is well lined, and I take care to keep it well closed.

closed. My mind is fully employd with agreeable studys, and my heart with a pleasing, interesting passion: what can I desire more of Fortune?

That nothing might be wanting to complete our pleasures, M. Jordan and I hired a garden in the suburbs of this town, where we passd the greatest part of the day, under the shade of some beautiful orange trees: here we dined, and here our friends assembled to enjoy a serene and tranquil day. The keeper of this garden is an old priestess of Venus, who would fain turn it into the grove of Cytherea, and has daily sacrifices ready to offer on the altar of that goddess. Were I less cautious, or were my heart less engaged, I should certainly have been in great danger; but as I had Madam von C—— daily before my eyes, my heart would not suffer me to be guilty, even of a transient infidelity: so that I confined myself merely to trifling with these

these nymphs of Venus, that came in crowds to disturb the tranquillity of our retreat. I much doubt whether my friend made use of the same moderation ; and whether it were not better that he had : but be that as it may, this pleasure of the garden lasted not long ; for in about fourteen days, the king wrote to M. Jordan, commanding him to repair to the camp before Neifs, and to bring me with him. We immediately quitted the garden of Venus, and hastend to the field of Mars. We pasd through Ohlau, and through Grotkau, a town belonging to the bishoprick of Breslaw ; this last place, with a rueful and ghastly countenance, seems yet to sigh under the calamitys of war, of which it was lately the theatre. The next morning by day break we continued our journey, and arrived early where his majesty lay incampd on the top of a hill, and in sight of Neifs.

They



They suffered in this camp every kind of want ; and it was no small mortification to see from the hill, the camp of M. von Neuperg, which lay partly on the plain, and partly in a village, abounding with every kind of necessary. I mounted to the top of the hill, and by the help of a good telescope, could see, in the quarters of the Austrian hussars, the suttlers selling all sorts of provisions ; every article of luxury ; fish, choice fruit, water melons, and even ananas, while we were just dying with hunger. But this extremity lasted not long ; for about noon we saw the whole army of M. von Neuperg in motion, and marching towards the mountains that cover Bohemia.

By quitting his camp he gave the king the opportunity of investing Neiss. In fact, his majestys army was immediately in motion. The light troops were sent in pursuit of the Austrians ; and we had nothing to do but march down the hill,  
and

and take possession of the camp they had left. The king fixd his head quarters in the village of Nunz. The troops destined for the siege were encampd on the border of the river Neiss, and the rest in the adjacent villages, in such order that the whole army might be brought together in a few hours. His majesty seems perfectly well pleased with his new quarters, with the retreat of M. Neuperg, and with the opportunity it has given him, of investing with more ease, the strongest fortification in Silesia.

His majesty receivd us very graciously, and orderd M. Frederisdorf to provide us a lodging in the very house where he was lodgd himself: this was the house of the catholic priest of the village. After supper, which was short and good, we retired, in hopes of repairing in a good bed, the fatigues of a disagreeable day: but how great was our surprise when the honest, but poor curate, conducted us  
into

into a chamber under the roof of the house, and which was directly over that where the king lay. On the floor was spread a large bundle of straw, on which was laid a coarse rug, and a pillow that was far from being clean. This sight at once disgusted and confounded us; but there was no remedy; we had nothing left to do, but to wrap ourselves up in our cloaks, and without further ceremony, lay down on the straw. To increase our misfortune the parson growld a Latin prayer for a good half hour, and turning towards us, crossd himself some twenty times; and presently after snored to the same tune in which he had prayd.

Sometimes we fondly thought on our garden, and the pleasures of Breslaw; and a hundred times cursd the toils and miseries of war. At length Morpheus took compassion on us, and strewed our hard bed with his poppys. We slept lightly,  
and

and were early waked by the sound of the drum. The next day the king made all necessary preparations for the siege; and the same night general Walrave opened the trenches before the town.

A siege was a strange scene to me; here I found opportunity for much contemplation: at first my whole philosophy was turned against the human race, who not content with carrying their rage and madness into the seat of learning, sought by their art to murder fame and honor. At length however, custom, and the continual instances of mortality, dispersed all these reflections; and I became so used to the business of a soldier, that mixing with the officers of the train, who loaded me with commendations, I followed them into the trenches; assisted in raising the batterys and redoubts; saw the town laid waste with bombs and cannon balls; and truly not in cool blood, nor with a sensation void of pleasure.

There



There has happend nothing very remarkable in the course of this siege: the only unfortunate accident we have had, was from a powder barrel, which being placed too near the batterys, took fire, and blew up eleven soldiers belonging to the artillery: the greatest part of these unfortunate men were destroyed; and as I pass'd that way presently after I saw their wretched remains, black as the foot.

By the extraordinary solicitude of our friend M. Frederisdorf, we obtaind a more decent and convenient lodging. Every morning they brought us a good breakfast. The king orderd two tables to be set up in a barn, on each of which were forty covers; here he dined with the princes, and his officers; and here we ate likewise; or were sometimes invited by the generals. They had a good table in camp, and there was no want of wine. In the afternoon we attended the  
king

king at his quarters, and towards the evening we waited on his royal highness the markgrave Henry, who was well lodgd; here we were invited to play, and almost always, kept to supper.

Mareschal Schwerin was lodgd in a village a short mile from the head-quarters. He invited me one day to dine with him, and sent a horse to carry me there. I found an agreeable company, an excellent dinner, and wine fit for the gods. The host and his guests were so well pleas'd, and with converse and mirth we sat so long, that night was come on before we broke up. I was obliged to return to the head-quarters to wait on the king as usual. M. Schwerin had the goodness to lend me a horse again, to carry me home; but the unlucky groom gave me that which the mareschal had rode at the battle of Mollwitz, who was very headstrong, and ever since that battle, quite shy.

Before I was well clear of the village, I was twenty times in danger of breaking my neck. There was a hill that must be pass'd to get to the head-quarters: when I had got to the top of it, I found a shivering come all over me, and my hair stood an end. I had no body with me but an ignorant valet: the whole country was full of maroders: I was mounted on an unruly horse; and, to increase my misfortune, had lost my way in the dark. I saw the bombardment of Neifs, as it were, under my feet, and heard the roaring of the cannon, and the crys of the wounded. At last, when I had got some way down the hill, my horse became on a sudden, shy, and gave a terrible spring; I could not guess the cause of all this; but when with much pains I had made him advance a few steps, I perceivd directly in the road before me, the body of a deserter, that had been hangd the same day; and  
the

the gallows was so low that his head and mine were just even. This sight struck me with fresh horror; so that sticking both spurs into my horse, I put him on a gallop, and got rid of my disagreeable companion; and at last, with much ado, got to the head-quarters. I directly sent the horse back, and went to the king, who asked me immediately how I came in so great a heat: I told his majesty the whole story; he laughed heartily at it; but commanded me seriously, for the future, not to be out of the head-quarters in the night and alone.

Two days after however, at noon day, I was in much greater danger. M. von Roth, the governor of Neifs, hung out the white flag, and M. Bork, the kings adjutant-general, was sent with a trumpet into the town, to regulate the capitulation. All hostilities in the mean time were suspended. M. Frederisdorf proposed to take this opportunity to ride up



to the town, and observe its situation ; I readily consented, and we went in fact, without any obstacle, quite up to the walls. But how great was our astonishment, when presently after, returning the same way, we heard all our batterys, cannon and mortars, firing with more fury than ever ! The besieged answered with theirs, and unfortunately we were just in the line of their batterys ; by great ill luck too, I had on, a blue coat with broad gold Brandenburg trimmings, so that the enemy took me for one of the kings adjutant generals. All the cannon were pointed at us ; our canoneers called out to us to fly to some place for shelter : the cannon balls flew about on the right and left of our horses ; but by the greatest good fortune in the world, not one of them touched us ; and on a full gallop we gained a small eminence, where, quitting our horses, we got safe to our quarters.

The

The next day the town surrendered to the king, and the garison marchd out with all the honors of war. There was one regiment of foot that made a good appearance, all the rest were a heap of irregular troops, more fit to excite pity than terror.

Immediately after, the king command-  
ed us to return to Breslaw; but M. Jordan was to stay there only till he had put his affairs in order, and then to go to Berlin, there to prepare every thing for his majestys reception. "But you," says the king to me, "you shall stay at Breslaw, and there wait my coming." We obeyed instantly, taking our way to the capital of Silesia; where to my mortification, I must for once part with my dear Jordan: that worthy companion of all my joys and all my troubles, is gone to Berlin, in a Russian carriage, they call a sleeping chariot: it belongs to M. Vockerodt, who brought it from Pe-

tersburgh, and is one of the best things in the world for a journey.

After to-morrow the king is expected in this city, and they are making great preparations to receive him : in the mean time, not having much to do, I have taken the opportunity to write you this long epistle ; and I wish with all my heart you may not be tired with reading it.

May you continually enjoy perfect health ; and be assured that there is not a man in the world, who to the last moment of his life, will be more entirely yours, than, &c.

LETTER



## L E T T E R VI.\*

From M. JORDAN.

*Grünberg, Oct. 3, 1741.*

**T**HOU dearest friend and partner  
 of my bed and board, my labors  
 and my pleasures, I greet thee well.  
 Since I left thy peaceful dwelling, and no  
 longer laugh and love with thee: since  
 by the harsh decree of fate, I am driven  
 far from thy company, life has nought  
 for me but weariness and disgust. How  
 pleasantly did we pass the time in that  
 delightful garden? an abode worthy of  
 the queen of Love; there we tasted true  
 joy, without waiting for the boons of

---

\* All this letter is wrote in the original in rhyme,  
 except those passages printed between inverted  
 commas.



Fortune ; and there we knit that band of virtuous friendship, which drawn close by time, eternity itself shall not unty.

“ No, my dear friend, the pleasures of  
“ that garden I shall never forget ; there  
“ Apollo, and the Loves, dealt us their  
“ favors, with bounteous hands, and we  
“ did not receive them unthankfully.”

Yet the pleasures of each nymph, her wit, her tenderness, even these frequently prove a future evil, for I find the want of what lately gave me pleasure, now gives me a very sensible pain. “ This  
“ pain follows me on my journey, and  
“ I think continually in my solitude on  
“ the pleasures that are past, and there I  
“ find the great worth of those I have  
“ left behind me.” Say to Themira \*,  
at her feet say, how greatly I am sensible of her transcendent merit ; but be not jealous, for the whole world is equally

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\* Madam von C——.

sensible of it with me. Salute the beautiful sisters\*, those favourites of mankind, in my name, and know, that there, if thou darest to defame thy friend Jordan, he will regard thee as the paragon of villains. Tell P—— that I honor him, but caution him too, that in my absence he do not turn his wicked wit against me, lest my friends, the dear girls, should hunt him with disgrace to his den. To B—— you have no caution to give, but a hearty salutation on my part, for I owe him many thanks: I travel with great convenience in his vehicle, I read and sleep, and ought to set my heart at rest.

My book is out, my entertainment is o'er, and I must seek my only remaining comfort in sleep.

I write you this, my friend, from Grünberg, on the third day of the month,

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\* Mademoiselles von St——.

58      L E T T E R   VII.

at four hours after midnight ; when almost dead with hunger, and when I have no longer either wine or rhyme.



L E T T E R   VII.

To M. JORDAN.

*Breslaw, Oct. 12, 1741.*

**I** DO assure you, my dearest brother in Apollo, in a few words, that your absence has proved to me a severe affliction : and I am convinced that you yourself cannot feel the separation of that perfect union which has so long subsisted between us, without a very sensible pain. Methought you seemd, when seated in your Russian carriage, and clothed in your peltz and rough cap, like some respectable inhabitant of the coast of the Northern sea ; yet under the disguise of  
a Lap-

a Laplander, under that borrowed mask from the picture of Maupertius, I discovered a German heart, and a French genius; the one my only comfort, and the other my greatest joy. But as you well know the affectionate friendship I bear you, I shall, with your leave, say no more of that here, especially as I have many other things to relate, which cannot fail of being agreeable.

Since your departure, all the Silesian nobility, together with the deputys of the clergy and the citys, have come here in crowds, to take the oath of allegiance to their new sovereign; and this capital is so throngd with polite company, that it may with truth be said to resemble Paris itself; as all Silesia, so to speak, is containd within these walls. Nothing is to be seen but equipages, some with four and some with six horses; and liverys of all the colors of the rainbow; with heyducks and running footmen,



coverd with lace from head to foot. In the assemblys one can scarce move, or hear one's self speak, and it is by the greatest chance in the world that you get a table. As the Silesian gentry abound with complaisance, they pay their respects without ceasing, to all those who are of the kings train ; so that from eight in the morning till almost night, our chamber is never empty.

The council and citizens of Breslaw have exerted their facultys to the utmost, in making preparations for his majestys reception. Since the time of the emperor Mathias, Silesia has never had the pleasure of beholding her sovereign ; so that it cannot be supposed that they are very expert at these kind of festivals. Now as the allegiance oath must be taken in the great hall of the state house, they were under no small concern to furnish and adorn it in haste, and in a manner suitable to the dignity of the ceremony. There is a throne in  
it,

it, that was made for the emperor just mentioned, and which must be used on the present occasion, as there is not time sufficient to make a new one. But unluckily, on the velvet that covers this throne, was embroiderd the imperial two headed eagle: this inconvenience however was presently removed, for by cutting off one of his heads, and fixing the kings cipher on his breast, he became as complete a Prussian eagle, as if he had never belonged to any other country. You ascend to this throne by four steps, and the chair in which the king sets is highly ornamented. The walls are hung with tapestry, on which are fixed, at equal distances, his majestys arms, and his cipher.

Our all glorious sovereign, covered with the laurels of his victoriys, arrived here on Thursday last, in the afternoon; and found an innumerable number of people before his palace; and all the anti-

chambers filld with Silesian nobles, prelates, officers, and other persons of rank: the principal of these were presented to his majesty, who receivd them most graciously, and conversd with them for a long time. The king then withdrew to his chamber, where he had a concert, and playd himself on the flute. His majesty afterwards supped alone, and retired early to rest, sufficiently fatigued with the business of this remarkable day.

The following day as the king talkd with messieurs von Podewils, Munchow, and Reinhardt, he ordered baron Pollnitz to be calld, and said to him, “Baron, I dreamt last night that I created nobles; tell me, you that know Silesia, who are the most worthy to bear that title.” Baron Pollnitz mentioned such as by their birth, their merit and their fortune, were the most respectable; and as his majestys choice fell on count Schoneich, messieurs von Beuthen, and  
Caro-

Carolath, and count Harzfield ; the baron was orderd to acquaint them with his majestys intention. There were made, besides these, four counts, four barons, and four other nobles ; and six of the principal Silesian nobility were invested with the order of the black eagle.

As a reward for the important service, which M. Podewils, minister for foreign affairs, has rendered his majesty in the course of this war, he was also raised to the dignity of a count, and invested with the kings order. There were likewise distributed several lord chamberlains keys ; several letters patent for seats in the council of state ; with many other titles and pensions : M. Munchow is appointed to remain in Silesia, and preside over the government and revenues ; and to give him more eclat among a people newly conquerd, his majesty has thought proper to advance him



him likewise to the dignity of a count, and minister of state.

These, my dear friend, are the principal transactions that have occurred since you left Breslaw: and they all together serve as a sort of prelude, to the business of the great day of oath taking. \* “ And though an abundant stream of grace flows from this new throne, yet it is lost on a rude and ill temperd people; how many of these gentry are there, whose mouths are springs of gall? outwardly they blaze with gold, and inwardly they burn with shame.” For they are all as gorgeous as a Roman Catholic chalice; make so brilliant a figure, with their gold cloths, that they may all, in one sense, be called illustrious lords. It must be understood however, that among so great a number, there are many per-

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\* The passages printed between inverted commas are wrote in the original in rhyme.

sons of sense and merit, of real dignity ; but these are not they who set themselves foremost in the ranks ; whereas the petits maitres are continually thrusting themselves, in crowds, into every company.

One thing there is, which surprises me more than all the rest, which is, to find among the Silesians an inconceivable number of poets, or rather German rhymers. Does any mean wretch take a wife ? immediately these men of genius raise her to the skies, and endeavour to persuade the poor husband, by fifty epithalamiums, that all the gods of Olympus rejoice in his chaste love ; and that it was they themselves, who tied the nuptial knot. Does some poor tradesman die, some unknown insignificant member of society ? a number of these versemakers are sure to surround his grave, with doleful dittys : in short, the most trifling occurrence, is sufficient to  
set

set the stream of *Hippocrene* a running at a strange rate.

The day you left Breslaw, M. Podewils and I dined with M. von R\*\*\*.

“ Three Germans of the society of  
 “ wit, that loved to talk and tope, com-  
 “ posed the company. The table groand  
 “ under the weighty dishes, and every  
 “ dish had wondrous charms. They  
 “ ate, they drank, and talkd; but  
 “ there wanted that Attic salt, so neces-  
 “ sary to make conversation palatable.”

How much did we regret the want of  
 thine, dear Jordan? It seems as if it  
 were by the loss of any good, that we  
 first find out its real worth: not that  
 we could be insensible to the value of  
 your friendship, which we so highly en-  
 joyed; far otherwise. But you know  
 that almost all our knowledge in this  
 world, arises from the comparison of  
 things, that are of opposite natures. So  
 that we cannot reflect on the past with-  
 out

out taking the glass in hand, and crying out ; “ Long live Jordan, that lawful son of wit, the delight of wise men, and the scourge of fools.”

In order to disperse that dullness which our host perceivd in our conversation, he thought proper to introduce a sort of female rope-dancer, but certainly the most impudent of all creatures. “ You know what an antipathy my lips have to the kisses of a strumpet, yet could I by no means avoid the embrace of this shameless prostitute.” She made me almost angry ; but perhaps I was obliged to her ; for, under the pretence of shunning her caresses, I found means of suddenly leaving my company. “ But where we once fly the embrace of a fair one, we a thousand times wish to enjoy it, when we cannot obtain it.” I shall not say where I afterwards was, but leave you to guess.

There



There was, the evening you left us, a great assembly at madam von Wargotsch. " There you might have seen many a " squire, that drew his first breath in a " village, frizd out with all the art " of a Parisian : and all of them gaz- " ing with amorous looks on your en- " chanting gipsy." You see that I mean your unrivalld brunetta. I could not have believd that she would have appeard so concernd and dejected; but so it is. You know the wicked wit of the marquis of V\*\*\*, young count P\*\*\*, and M. Konigsdorf : and she gave more way to it, than perhaps she could have wishd. How flattering is this news for you ; I shall add no more, for I know of nothing to conclude my letter with so agreeable as this. By the next post I shall acquaint you with every circumstance relative to the approaching ceremony. In the mean time, as I ever was I ever shall be, &c.

L E T-



## L E T T E R VIII.

To M. JORDAN.

*Breslaw, Oct. 15, 1741.*

SINCE the kings arrival in this city, the concourse of nobility has been so great, that the rooms in the principal hotels were found too small to contain the assemblies. The king thought proper therefore to order that they should be held at a house where there is a room of an uncommon size; and his majesty honors them with his presence every evening; and by his direction there is constantly an open table, to which such ladies as are of distinction, are always invited.

All the necessary preparations being made, the so ardently expected day of adjura-

adjuration at length arrived. As soon as it was light all the garison was under arms, and marchd to different quarters of the town. The first battalion of foot guards was posted in the market-place, and about the state house.

The deputy of the cardinals, the cardinal von Sinzendorf, bishop of Breslaw, placed himself at the head of the prelates, the generals of the holy orders, and deputys of the Silesian churches. After the equipages of the clergy, came the deputys of the provinces ; and the whole body of nobility. Then followed the burgomasters and senators of Breslaw; and the deputys of such other towns as do not belong to this bishopric. One would have thought there was no end to this procession. The principal of the nobility came in coaches and six, and their equipages were so brilliant that they dazzeld the eye : the liverys were above all, grand and elegant. The concourse  
I of

of people in the market-place was inconceivably great, and the windows of the houses afforded the most charming prospect in the world, for they were filld with ladys of the first rank; and the weather, which was extremely fine, reflected a double lustre on the whole.

When the procession had enterd the hall, each one took the place appointed for him. Presently after, his excellency mareschal count Schwerin; the cabinet minister count Podewils; count Munchow; many general officers, and all those that were of the kings train, enterd the same hall, but by another door, and placed themselves on each side of the throne, in a line directly opposite to the Silesian deputys. I had the honor of being included with the Prussians.

Towards noon they announced the arrival of our monarch. He sat in a phaeton, the same that he commonly used in the field, which was drawn by eight horses,



horses, but with a harness that was quite plain. His majesty was dressed in his uniform, which was far from being new: his hair was not remarkably frizd; and in his whole person there was not the least appearance of parade or expense. In this martial dress the king seated himself on his throne. The prince of Prussia, and the rest of the princes of the blood, placed themselves round him. The mareschal von Schwerin stood on his right hand; and should have born the sword of state, but that was forgot: this omission however his majesty immediately supplyd, by drawing his own sword, that sword with which he had conquerd Silesia, and putting it into the mareschals hands.

Count Podewils who stood on the left of the king, opened the ceremony by a speech, in which he acquainted the presence with the motives that had induced his majesty to convoke that assembly,  
after

after having finishd in so glorious a manner the conquest of Silesia. And he exhorted them that they should with their hearts, as well as with their lips, swear allegiance to their new lord and sovereign duke. And lastly, he assured them in the kings name, that his majesty would ever regard them with the affection of a father, that he would continually afford them all possible aid and protection; and that he should look on every day of his life as lost, in which he did not give them some fresh mark of his roial munificence. This speech pleasd me greatly; there ran throughout it, a natural and manly eloquence, without foreign ornament, and with a noble simplicity.

M. Voëkerodt then read the oath of allegiance, which the deputys and the whole nobility repeated with a loud voice. During this reading the king sat, and was coverd; but while the declaration was

making in his name, he stood, and was uncoverd. The nobility all stood ; but the deputys of the cardinals, the churches, and the citys, knelt.

When the oath was over, every one in his rank advanced to the throne, laid his hand upon the Bible, and kissed the hilt of the kings sword, in token of inviolable fidelity. When this procession, which lasted a considerable time, was over, count Podewils concluded this solemn ceremony, with a complement, which he made in the kings name, to the whole body of Silesians : acquainting them with the great satisfaction the king found, in the completion of this important business ; assuring them again of his majestys protection, and of the full enjoyment of all their antient rights and privileges. The whole assembly answerd with a loud cry of joy, and with, “ Long live the king of Prussia, “ long live our sovereign lord.” His  
majesty

majesty answerd these acclamations with a bow, and descending from the throne, was attended by the whole assembly to the very door of his carriage.

The dinner given by his majesty the same day, was extremely grand and elegant; and all persons of rank were invited. The kings table consisted of fifty covers: there were besides six other tables, each of which was superbly served. I was appointed to do the honors at one of these tables, and did my best to make every thing agreeable and pleasing. His majesty assisted me in this business very essentially, for he sent me with the desert, two dozen bottles of Hungarian wine, and a silver dish coverd with a napkin; this dish was filld with gold and silver medals, which the king had orderd to be struck, in commemoration of this great day: I was orderd to present to each person of my company one gold and two silver medals. You can-



not conceive, my dear friend, how their countenances brightend and their eyes sparkled at the serving up of this roial dish: no sooner was it uncoverd than their mouths all opened at once, as if they were ready each one to bite at it. I conceivd in haste, a short complement to make in the kings name, and ordering all the glasses to be chargd, I distributed my medals; and my company drank with the greatest joy and affection, "To the health of that monarch, who knows as well how to coin medals as to conquer provinces." Our mirth at length became so loud, that his majesty who was in the next room heard it, and was not a little pleasd with it.

As soon as it was night every one got into their coaches, and entertaind themselves with observing the gay crowd that filld the streets; and the illuminations with which the citizens of Breslaw had adorn'd their houses. With much in-

treaty I prevaild on madam von C—— to give me her company in my chariot. We found all Breslaw as light as at noon-day, by the many thousand lamps that were fixd to the houses, from the ground quite up to the roof. Various were the representations, by emblems, inscriptions, paintings and every other possible contrivance, which the inhabitants of Breslaw made use of, to express the ardor of their joy. Here you saw a dull, and there a facetious, here a mean trifling, and there an ingenious rich, design : altogether however they afforded a very pleasing prospect.

We were so highly entertaind that we spent near two hours in traversing the city, and stopping at some of the most remarkable places. The Jesuits, the Carmelites, and Capuchins, were at no small expence in alluminating their monastrys in a pompous manner, but altogether without taste or spirit ; their emblems and inscriptions

were mere Capuchin wit. On the contrary, the illuminations in the market place, and before the state-house, made a noble appearance, and the designs were incomparably fine. Before the house that is directly opposite the state-house, was playd off a very grand firework. Our friend Korn, the bookseller, had fixd at the front of his house in the market place, the map of Silesia, drawn on transparent paper, over which was ~~seen~~ the Prussian eagle in flight, with these words, "A well grounded right," which is precisely the title of that famous manifesto which the king published against the court of Vienna, and by which he proved the equity of his claim.

The throng of coaches was so great, that it was with no small difficulty we got back to the hotel, where his majesty gave a grand masquerade ball; and a very sumptuous entertainment was provided, at different tables. This ball put  
me

me to the expence of sending for a domino, with which I had lately paraded at Berlin. We danced till four the next morning, when I went home, completely satisfyd with the entertainments of this memorable day.

All the following days were distinguished, either by some act of roial bounty which his majesty granted to his new subjects; or by some remarkable diversions: and I do assure you, my dear friend, that I found these rejoicings great as they were, by no means outré; considering that the conquest of Silesia, that extensive and rich province, of more worth than many kingdoms of Europe that I could name, has proved a mere diversion to our monarch: God grant that the preservation may not cost more than the acquisition.

The king has commanded the greatest part of his train to return to Berlin, and to take the road on this side the Oder,



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as it would be impossible for the country people, who are obliged to find horses at every stage, to provide a sufficient number, if they were all to take the same road. Baron Pollnitz and I have orders to attend his majesty, who sets out tomorrow morning.

What do I not feel for tomorrow? what a separation have I to undergo? perhaps never more in my life to behold that person, who makes the greatest joy of my life. The only comfort I find in this deep affliction is, my dearest friend, the hopes of meeting you in Berlin, and of alleviating in the arms of friendship the pangs that love has caused. Till then, farewell.

LETTER



## L E T T E R IX.

To Madam von C \* \* \*, at Breslaw.

*Berlin, Nov. 25, 1741.*

I HAVE been a long time in doubt, madam, whether I should write to you or not. It is true that the intercourse of letters is some consolation in absence, but how poor is such a consolation to a heart that loves like mine. You well know that in Breslaw I could scarce support a few hours without the pleasure of seeing you, and now the only comfort that is left me is, the opportunity of writing to you twice a week : and then I knew full well, that every letter would renew my pains ; every stroke of the pen would pierce me to the heart, and make my wounds bleed afresh. For that immeasurable regard which I

entertain for you, arises not merely from the charms of your beauty, or the graces of your mind, but from that highly amiable character which you bear.

Mankind admire a beautiful woman, and are bewitch'd by a great fortune. We find a natural inclination to the one, and a strong propensity to the other. But the man of principle, the man of sense and taste, can only sincerely love, the woman of delicate sensibility. I am convinced that you did not disclose your inclination without the greatest ingenuity and discretion, and that our mutual passion is as blameless as it is ardent. I would therefore much rather endeavour to stifle the ardor of my affection, than by a recital of my own sufferings to renew your pains. But I have this moment heard, madam, that the regiment in which the gentleman your husband commands, is no longer to remain in Silesia, but is on the point of marching  
into

into its old quarters : and as it will not be far distant from Berlin, we shall again find opportunitys, under the patronage of love, of seeing and conversing with each other. What heart-felt joy did not this news give me ? with what eagerness did I not snatch the pen, to give it you ? Come then quickly hither ; fly into the arms of your parents ; that is certainly a just motive, or at least a fair pretence, and for the rest—

I am very sensible, madam, and I should be ingrateful were I not sensible, that you interest yourself too much in my wellfare, not to wish to know what has happend to me since our parting. M. Pollnitz and I, have had in the kings train, a very pleasant and safe, but with-all, a very tiresome journey. We got here in two days and a half, quite exhausted with fatigue. We stopd nowhere, but a few hours at Frankfort on the Oder, where the fair then was.



When we came near the town, we found the road lined on both sides, with an innumerable number of merchants and strangers of all nations, that curiosity had brought together, to see the conqueror of Silesia. So that the king's entrance into Frankfort, wanted nothing of a triumph, but the pomp and parade. We passed like lightning before the eyes of the spectators, and so covered with dirt and dust that it was impossible to distinguish our features, or even the color of our cloths. We purchased each one somewhat in the fair, and leaving that city, at last happily arrived in this capital ; where the king was received with great joy by his people.

I lodged the first night with M. Pollnitz, and the next day had the good fortune to find a very handsom and convenient lodging, at the corner of Stechbahn, directly opposite the palace. I have five chambers on the same floor ;  
a kitchen,

a kitchen, a stable, coach house &c. I have brought all my furniture here, and when not in waiting on his majesty, or some of the roial family have been employed in adjusting matters in my new dwelling; where it is most probable, I shall remain for some years at rest, as the king has thought proper to appoint me to a place in the department for foreign affairs, as a secretary of legation.

As I have livd for a long time past, in continual noise and bustle, I now highly enjoy the pleasures of a peaceful life. I commonly dine in my own chamber. I study and write every morning till I go to court. In the afternoon I make some visit; and I pass many hours in the library of my learned friend Jordan. In the evening I go to the palace, and attend his majesty; or pay my devoirs to their majestys, the reigning queen, or queen mother.

Their

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Their



Their roial highnesses the margraves Albert, and the margraves Henry, and the prince her husband, load me with favors and civilitys. I usually sup either with these princes, or at court, or else in the city. I cannot sufficiently express, that great urbanity with which I am receivd by their excellencys, the cabinet ministers; count Podewils, and count Bork; by all other state ministers and generals, and in short by every person of rank who keeps house in Berlin. They regard me not as a stranger, but as one who had passd his whole life in their company.

I am highly sensible of my good fortune; but I am sensible at the same time that I cannot be completely happy, without the enjoyment of your company. There is a horrid vacancy in my heart, which you alone can fill. The utmost power of dissipation is not able to make me forget the misery which your absence  
causes.

## L E T T E R X. 87

causes. Your image follows me as well at the court, as in my closet, and I shall never know what true joy is, till I have the pleasure of assuring you, face to face, of that perfect devotion with which I am, &c.



## L E T T E R X.

To M. von M\*\*\*, at Hanoyer.

*Berlin, Dec. 1, 1741.*

**W**HAT is life, my dear friend, without serious business, and without study? I use both, for I find both necessary to my minds health. The department for foreign affairs, with which I am connected, affords me not sufficient employment, whether it be from the assiduity of my colleagues, or what other cause, I know not.

There

There are, who would persuade me that I write not ill.; and on the other hand I know full well, that I want an infinity of knowledge to make my labors really useful. And this has determind me, to endeavour in a manner to forget, for a while, that favor which the king seems at this time to have for me, that I may find opportunity of acquiring some of that knowledge, which I am so sensible I want; and for this purpose I give myself up, from time to time, entirely to my studys.

I have here met with my old friend and countryman M. Lamprecht; with whom I daily exercise myself in the study of eloquence and the other *belles-lettres*. My good fortune has likewise brought me acquainted with a very learned man, named Uhl; who is remarkably well read in polite literature, and has a deep knowledge of the laws and historys of nations. I have engaged him

him to come to me every morning, and to communicate his knowledge in these sciences.

Besides these set studys, I daily read such books as can furnish me with what other learning I want; and by these means I hope in a few years, to make such a proficiency, as will enable me to undertake an office that perhaps his majesty has designed for me. I join to these serious studys, the reading of poetry, dramatic writings, a few of the best romances, and works of mere wit: in short, every thing that I find agreeable to my taste. And in this manner, which seems to me the most eligible, I employ my time.

But do not think, my dear friend, that by this application to study, close as it is, I forget the court and the world. By no means; these I constantly frequent as schools of real learning, and of that sort of learning which is more essentially



tially necessary to me than all the other. Here I see, as in a moving picture, a thousand striking objects that pass before my eyes, and are continually changing as they pass. These enlarge my mind by storing it with a constant succession of new ideas. And this I regard as a fortunate circumstance that my situation in life necessarily contributes to my instruction.

In this manner, my dear friend, I join the knowledge of the great world, with the study of the more useful sciences. Will you have the goodness to give me your opinion of my plan? and if you think that by perseverance I shall accomplish my design.

You now see me at the foot of Parnassus; as my strength increases you may perhaps find me some way up the hill: but as little as I wish to grovel at the bottom, so little do I expect to mount to the summit. A strong desire however  
to

to excel, may in some degree supply the want of natural ability ; or at least urge me some way on ; for I have continually in my mind that sentence :

*Nil volentibus arduum.*

Guide me by your good counsil, my dear friend, in this new path ; and be assured, that tho my ability may be hereafter greater, my inclination can never be stronger, to shew with what sence of obligation, respect and devotion, I have the honor to be, &c.



## L E T T E R XI.

To Madam von C \* \* \*, at D—.

*Berlin, Jan. 10, 1742.*

M A D A M,

**T**O whom shall I wish a happy year, if not to you? for much rather would I suffer ill fortune, sickness, death itself, than not see you enjoy life, health and pleasure. And were it in my power to choose, it would certainly be more eligible for me to be unfortunate, than to see you so; since your unhappiness would necessarily make me miserable. These are the expressions of my heart, not on this day only, but on every day of my life: my first thoughts in the morning when I wake, and the last when I lay down to rest.

I shall here avail myself, madam, of that opportunity which custom has established,

blished, of presenting a new years offering, to send you an account of that continued scene of diversions, which we have had here for this fortnight past, on account of the marriage of his roial highness the prince of Prussia, with the princess of Brunswick \*. There was no withstanding this torrent of pleasure ; nothing could be attended to but dress, which is in fact a real labor to me. But what will most surprize you is, that the day after the nuptials, I poor mortal, was more fatigued than any of the court, except the new marryd prince. Leaving you to unravel this mystery, I proceed to a short description of this magnificent festvial.

I know that in the provinces, these sort of relations are eagerly sought after,

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\* Louisa Amelia, daughter of Ferdinand Albertus, duke of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, and sister to the reigning queen of Prussia, was born 29 Jan. 1722; and the prince of Prussia was born 9 Aug. 1722 : the prince and princess therefore, were at this time, both in the twentieth year of their age.

and



and that they are ill at ease, who are known to have correspondence with the court, and cannot satisfy the curiosity of their acquaintance. Since Christmas, Berlin has been crouded with strangers of the first rank: among whom are reckond fourteen soveraign princes. Every thing that could possibly contribute to their entertainment, during their residence in this city, has been done by his majestys command. Every day was distinguished, either by some roial feast, or some new kind of diversion; which altogether served as an introduction to the day of these roial nuptials.

The night before this grand ceremony, his majesty rememberd that it was the custom of the house of Brandenburg, as well as most other German courts, for some courtier to present the new marryd princess, the day after her nuptials, with a crown of flowers, and to make the illustrious bride at the same time, a short

gay ſpeech, or ſome ſprightly compliment, adapted to that ſtate in which ſhe was juſt entered.

On the marriage of the princeſſes, the daughters of the late king, this ceremony was ſometimes performed by the maſter of the horſe, M. von Schwerin; and ſometimes by ſome other courtier. On this occaſion his majeſty was pleaſed to appoint me to this office, and ordered baron Pollnitz to ſend for me. It was with ſome difficulty that I was met with; for M. Pollnitz promiſed my ſervants a ducat to find me out. I ran to court, in expectation of hearing ſome good news for the ſtate, or at leaſt for my ſelf; but was greatly ſurpriſed to receive from the kings mouth, a command to prepare this ſpeech.

The firſt thought that ſtruck me, as I went out of the kings chamber, was, that as the eyes of the whole court would be fixd on me, it was neceſſary to make  
a ſplen-

a splendid appearance. The time was short; I found means however to procure a very beautiful stuff, and a suitable trimming; and my taylor completed the business by the next day.

This point settled, I went home, call'd aloud on Apollo and the muses, and sat down to compose my oration. The undertaking appeared to me, to be attended with much difficulty. I was to speak before the most respectable personages; and in this nice affair, was to please the delicate ears of the queens and the princesses: and yet it was necessary to throw in, but with much art, here and there, a casual expression that might please the company. By nine o'clock the same evening my speech was made, read over, corrected, and with good and bad, completed. I supped afterwards with two intimates; was in high spirits; and before I went to bed had my oration memoriter.

The

The next day, which was the nuptial day, I stayd all the morning at home : after dinner I dresd, and about five, I went to the palace. At six, the whole, court was assembled in the presence chamber, which you remember, madam, is very elegantly ornamented, and most magnificently furnishd. All the rooms were highly illuminated ; and in the great hall, which is at the end, and is calld the white hall, under a canopy of crimson velvet, embroiderd with gold, was placed the altar, before which the illustrious pair were to present themselves, and perform the sacred rites.

The dres of the whole court was amazingly superb and brilliant : on every side was seen the glitter of silver, gold, pearls and diamonds. The three young princes of Wurtemberg, were particularly remarkable, for the taste as well as magnificence of their dres.



About seven, the king enterd the hall, accompanyd by the two young princes, Henry and Ferdinand, and attended by severall of his lord chamberlains, adjutant generals, and many other officers of state, all in the richest French dresse. His majestys coat was of a silver stuff, with a shoullder knot, but the waistcoat and facings were of a gold and silver brocade; all these were hightened by the yellow riband, and the star; and gave this monarch, in my eyes, so young, so gay and graceful an air, that I could not have refrained from loving him, altho he had been a stranger. We have a saying in Germany, which is, "What lady can withstand that man, who is handsom, witty, and a prince?" but with much stronger reason may we say, "What lady can withstand him, who is in his person the most amiable of mankind; the greatest genius in the world; and a king?"

Pre-

Presently after came the queen, dress'd in a robe of green velvet, which was coverd, to the very train, with bunches of brilliants. And all these ornaments were so happily dispos'd, that it was manifest the Graces themselves had attended on her toilet. The brilliants in her hair were above all illustrious: the small Sancy, the third diamond of that sort in Europe, shone among the rest, like the sun among the stars. Four ladys of the court bore her majestys train. Next came the queen mother, in a robe of black velvet, trim'd with ermine, and adorn'd with a prodigious quantity of diamonds, pearls, and lace; which gave this great and venerable princess, a most majestic appearance. She was accompany'd by her two daughters, the princesses Ulrica and Amelia, who had forgot nothing that could add to the lustre of their charms.

At last appear'd the illustrious pair, whose happy union gave birth to these

sumptuous festivals. His roial highness led in his august bride. They were both dressed in brocade of white and silver. The folds of the princesses robe, were ornamented with gold point d'espagne ; and all the vacant spaces blazed with diamonds. The hair of both princes, was dressed with a luxurious elegance. The princesses train was borne by four of the queens ladys of honor ; and they were followed by all those who compose their court.

When the whole company had formd itself into a half circle, the prince and princess immediately aproachd the altar ; accompanyd by the king, the queens, and all the princes and princesses ; and there receivd the solemn consecration of their nuptials, from the hands of M. Sack, his majestys first chaplain ; who made on this occasion, a short, but very pathetic exhortation. The moment their hands were joind, we heard the thunder of  
the

the cannon, that were placed in the garden of the palace; which were answerd by a triple discharge of all the cannon on the ramparts; proclaiming to the inhabitants of Berlin, the completion of this happy event. After the prince and his princess, had receivd the compliments of the king, the queens, and the chief persons of the company; the whole court was entertained at five great tables in different rooms. At the first table sat the king, the queens, the new marryd pair, and all the other princes and princesses; as well those who are not, as those who are, of the blood.

The count of Podewils did the honors at the second table, at which were seated all the foreign ministers. At the other tables the rest of the company placed themselves without distinction. They were all, in a word, roially servd, and the entertainment lasted for a long time.



As soon as their majestys rose from table, the whole company returned into the white hall; from whence the altar was removed, and the room was illuminated with fresh wax lights. The musicians were placed on a stage of solid silver. Six lieutenant generals, and six-ministers of state, stood, each with a white wax torch in his hand, ready to be lighted, in conformity to a ceremony used in the German courts on these occasions, and which is called "the dance of torches," in allusion to the torch of Hymen. This dance was opened by the new marryd prince and princess, who made the tour of the hall, saluting the king and the company. Before them went the ministers and the generals, two and two, with their lighted torches. The princess then gave her hand to the king, and the prince to the queen; the king gave his hand to the queen mother, and the reigning queen to prince Henry; and  
in

in this manner all the princes and princesses that were present, one after the other, and according to their rank, led up the dance; making the tour of the hall, almost in the step of the Pologne.

The novelty of this performance, and the sublime quality of the performers, made it in some degree agreeable. Otherwise the extreme gravity of the dance itself, with the continual round and formal pace of the dancers; the frequent going out of the torches; and the clangor of the trumpets that rent the ear: all these I say, made it too much resemble, the dance of the Sarmates, those ancient inhabitants of the prodigious woods of this country.

When the last prince had finished his tour, the music and the dance ceased. The queen-mother withdrew. The king accompanied the prince, and the queen the princess, to their chambers; where this illustrious bride and bridegroom pre-

pared themselves, by a very rich and elegant night dress, to complete their nuptials.

As soon as they were ready, the door of their bedchamber was thrown open, and we followed each other in; where we found the princess on a bed of crimson velvet, highly ornamented with the richest pearls. The prince stood at the head of the bed in a night gown, and a cap borderd with lace. The tasteless jesters, who gave the reins to their fancy, incommoded his highness with their freedoms, not a little; he disingaged himself however, in a pleasant and handsom manner, and taking off the princesses garter, cut it into a number of pieces, and distributed it among the company; and then ended the ceremony, by embracing the king, dismissing the company, and bolting his door; henceforward to be guarded by the god of wedlock, to whom Love had deliverd up his torch.

After

After their majestys and the princes and princeffes were retir'd to their chambers, we went all together into the dining chamber, where we found a midnight collation, and excellent wine; in more than one full glafs of which we each drank success to the mutual endeavours of the new marryd pair. About three the next morning I got home to my lodging.

The following evening about six, the whole court was assembled in the great gallery: their majestys, the new man and wife, the princes and princeffes, in short the whole court appeared indomino, but without masks. I alone was pompously dressed, and for which I was not a little admired.

The company danced and playd till nine, when the king orderd me to prepare for my oration. I went immediately into the first antichamber, where I found every thing ready for the ceremony. Twelve young knights went before me, with each a lighted wax taper



in his hand : the baron of Mordach, a very amiable Silesian nobleman, immediately preceded me, bearing in a gold dish, the crown of flowers, which was very curiously wrought, and adorn'd with small figures of children in wax : I was follow'd by an endless number of spectators, and was doubtless a good deal confus'd ; for my fears appear'd so plain in my countenance, that as I pass'd the door of the hall, the baron von Plotho cry'd out to me, " Courage ! my friend ! " you look as pale as the dead."

The whole court form'd itself into a half circle, the center of which was the new marry'd pair, and on each side of them stood the king, the queens, and two and twenty princes and princesses. The twelve young knights began the ceremony, by searching with their lighted tapers for what was silently supposed to be lost the last night. But you will easily believe, madam, that it was impossible

possible to discover that, by the brightest light which never existed but in the imagination. Be that however as it may, when this pantomime was over, I began my speech. But there was such a horrid noise that I could not hear my own voice; so that I was obliged to desire his majesty to command silence; which when I had obtained, I immediately recovered from my confusion, and delivered my oration as well as I could have wished.

As soon as the oration was finished, baron Mordach entered the circle, and placed the crown on the head of the princess; which her highness was not ambitious long to wear, but tossed it into the hands of the prince her consort. I marched out with the same ceremony that I had entered, and having dismissed my knights, returned into the hall unattended; where the whole court was entertained at five tables, as on the preceding evening.

I here fend you, madam, the French translation, that has been made of my speech, tho perhaps you have before seen it in German, as there have been already two editions of it, for it goes off like new bread: not certainly on account of its own merit, but as making part of the entertainments of these illustrious festivals.

After table there was playd off in the great place, which they call the kings garden, a very beautiful fire work: which the court saw from the windows of the palace. But the extreme cold had extinguishd many of the lamps, with which the pyramids and other ornaments were illuminated. After this the court went to dancing, and the ball lasted till very late in the night.

The third day the prince and princess went to the palace of the prince roial, which is to be their future place of residence: and which the king has completely

pletely furnished for his brother. There was the same evening an opera and open table at court.

The fourth day the prince of Prussia, did me the honor to invite me to dine with him : and before we sat down, his roial highness was pleas'd to thank me very graciously for my speech, and for the manner in which it was deliverd ; presenting me at the same time with a very valuable gold watch, and desiring that I would preserve it in remembrance of these days, and as a token of that regard which he bore me.

In this manner, madam, ended all these entertainments. I shall be the happiest man in the world, if my description of them does not prove tiresome to you ; and if you will have the goodness to believe that in the midst of all these diversions, in the midst of the greatest dissipations, your image was never absent from my heart ; and that to the last moment



ment of my life, I shall never cease to  
be, with the most perfect devotion,

Madam,

Your, &c.



A CORONARY ORATION, delivered  
Jan. 7, 1742, on occasion of the  
marriage of the prince of PRUSSIA  
with the princess of BRUNSWICK-  
WOLFENBUTTEL.

THE eyes of the whole court are  
this day fixd on you, illustrious  
pair, all thinking to discover in your  
countenances, those marks of distinction,  
which this day, gives you so different a  
title from what you yesterday bore. Far  
be it from me to presume to explore the  
thoughts with which the minds of the  
beautiful part of this presence, are on  
this occasion, doubtless agitated. Those  
thoughts

thoughts, secret as they are intent, are not the less just, not the less generous. But you will permit, illustrious pair, that I show the true motives of this fixed attention, this universal curiosity.

The conqueror, who is honored with a triumph, hears on all sides the crys of joy, and vows for his prosperity. In the dominions of Venus, as well as in those of Mars, there is a field of battle ; but the great difference between the combats of the one, and the combats of the other, is, that the victorys of Cytherea are incomparably more pleasing than those of Bellona : while these seek to destroy the human race, those seek to increase it ; and what is still more, the laurels of love, elevate the conquered to the same degree of honor with the conqueror, and his triumphs are never so joyous, never so glorious, as when jointly enjoyed by both. This noble, this sublime point of honor, illustrious pair, you have this day

day obtaind, and this it is that now draws on you, the earnest regard of so magnificent an assembly. We must not imagine however, that there can be a victory without a defeat ; by no means ; for even the triumphs of love are inseparably connected with a very poignant loss ; but even this is esteemed so honorable, that mankind have thought it worthy of a crown of glory.

You here appear, illustrious princeſs, partly as a conqueror, and partly as conquered. Your glory as a conqueror conſiſts in having ſubdued the heart of ſo magnanimous a prince ; and by conquering ſo great a hero, you have an undoubted right to be numberd among the race of heroines. The crown, notwithstanding, that I now preſume to offer your highneſs, is not the price of your victory, but the reward of your defeat. And can a defeat that merits a crown, be ſubject to the leaſt reproach ? Far otherwiſe ; ſuch a defeat  
muſt

must doubtless lead to the path of immortal fame.

It was the want of this fame, that caused the tears to stream from the eyes of Iphigenia, and of the daughter of Jephtha. As well the one as the other of these unhappy virgins, lamented a loss to which no conciliating circumstance was annexed. As well the one as the other deplored a death, which was the more insupportable, as it deprived them of the possibility of ever obtaining that crown, which I have this day the honor of presenting your highness. But Esther, on the contrary, the fortunate queen Esther, by sacrificing an imaginary, to a real good, obtained the distinguished honor of having stretched out to her, the sceptre of a great king.

Be not offended, madam, at the trivial composition of this crown, and do not regard it as a mean offering; but regard it as it is, a distinguishing mark of  
that



that state, into which you have so lately enterd ; that honorable state, which is so sure to excite the envy of all those who are not yet initiated into its sacred mysterys. Among the Romans a trifling crown was the only reward of, and a sufficient excitement to, the most heroic deeds.

I doubt not in the least, most gracious prince, but that you behold with inward real satisfaction, this simple work of straw, that shall crown the head of your illustrious consort, and afford a pleasing remembrance of that noble victory you have so lately obtained. And certainly a frequent repetition of such victorys, as that which adorns the brows of your illustrious princess with a crown of gladness, must give you ineffable delight.

Joy and happiness once reignd throughout all Greece, on the marriage of the prince Telemachus with the virtuous Antiope

tiopé: in like manner, illustrious pair, an universal exultation is now diffused amongst all those who obey the Prussian sceptre. For this festival of your auspicious nuptials, is celebrated with that joy, which the good fortune of your royal house ever excites. How just, how natural is this joy, to a people, who are the happy witnesses of that marriage, which unites the first of their princes, a prince that will be the admiration of all posterity; with a princess who knows of nothing superior to the dignity of her birth, but the excellent qualities of her heart?

May the smiles of Fortune, O happy pair! perpetually attend you! may your fame be equal to your exalted station! that mankind may hereafter erect a monument to your glory, which shall excite all future ages to emulate your transcendent virtues! In your veins, excellent prince! flows the noble blood of  
I
your

116      L E T T E R   XII.

your heroic ancestors; and your heart burns with the love of glory. May you transmit these sublime qualitys to an endless race of heroes! and may you live to see, your childrens children, persue, with unceasing ardor \*, the love of their country and of glory!



L E T T E R   XII.

To M. von M \* \* \*, at Hanover.

*Berlin, Dec. 6, 1742.*

**W**E now see, my dear friend, the beginning of another war. The king has enterd Máhren, and they even say that his majesty has penetrated as far as Znaim, which is but sixteen miles from

---

\* These words allude to the kings motto. *Pro patria, & pro glorio.*

Vien-

Vienna ; and that our huffars of the Ziethenschen regiment, scour the country quite up to the suburbs of that capital, from whence they bring vegetables and other provisions into the camp. You will excuse the few words with which I give you this news, and which have escaped me, contrary to our determination, never to write about war or peace, or any thing that concerns sovereign princes ; as being certainly the best mean of enjoying ease and peace, amid the tumult of courts ; advantages that the writers of news are in no small danger of forfeiting\*.

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\* What our author here says of not writing news, must be understood of the secrets of the cabinet, with which he was intrusted ; for the reader will otherwise find many accounts of public transactions, in the course of these letters, and some, such as the twenty-third and twenty-fourth, entirely taken up with them ; but with this restriction, that they are, in general, such anecdotes, as are not to be met with in the gazetts of the day.

A con-



A constant companion of mine, and one of my best friends has been talking to me a long time past, about a young lady that lives at Hall, who is of a very good family, and already in possession of a large fortune, her father and mother both dying when she was quite young, and these parents it seems took care to make good provision for their children. Now my friend is desirous that by the way of matrimony I should turn this opportunity to my advantage. But as it is necessary that people should be acquainted together before they can love each other, he urged me very closely, to make a journey to Hall, and there get acquainted with this lucky orphan.

The kings absence offered a fair opportunity to undertake this bold enterprise. The night before his departure for the army, therefore, I asked leave of his majesty, who granted it with expressions of great goodness. A few days  
after

after I set off from Berlin, born on the wings of love, but conducted however by prudence, for I took care to be provided with proper letters of recommendation to M. von S\*\*\*, the brother-in-law and guardian of the lady; with rich cloaths, a gay equipage, and a weighty purse.

I arrived in good health at Hall, and took up my quarters at the Golden Lyon, where I found very handsom furnished lodgings. I began my love business with a visit to the brother, who received me with great complaisance; as men in the provinces are wont to receive those who belong to the court, and have the honor to be about the person of the king. The next day I was invited to dine, and as it happened to be the birthday of M. von S\*\*\*, he gave an entertainment to his friends, and the principal ladies of the city. The whole morning I spent in furnishing out a spruce and splendid

splendid figur, and at noon I fallyd forth in my ornamental equipage.

I found the whole company assembled, the ladys, who were dresd with great cost and little taste, formed a circle. I cast my eyes round in search of that object, with which the fates had decreed I should become enamoured ; but found no secret foreboding emotion in my heart, nor any of that sparkling penetrating fire of the eyes, which they say lights up the flame that burns the lovers breast. I was presented to the ladys, and in particular to mademoiselle von Reich. My curiosity was satisfyd, and my heart was quite at ease. The dinner was grand, we sat long at table, and the conversation was, notwithstanding, very sprightly. We afterwards made our partys, and I had the honor to play with those on whom I had cast my eyes. In place of supper was servd up a cold collation, and I staid with this company till midnight.

By

By what I am able to discover of mademoiselle von R \* \* \*, at a first view, her character appears to be excellent; she is truth, goodness, and goodnature itself. She has a youthful air, which becomes her well; and has nothing in her countenance that is in the least disagreeable. She receivd me with politeness, but without any distinguishing marks of regard, though she were already acquainted with my intentions. The next day I visited those of the city to whom I had recommendations; was received every where with great civility; was constantly invited to dine or sup, and in most places I met with Mademoiselle von R \* \* \*.

When I thought I was sufficiently acquainted with the understanding and the heart of this young lady, I open'd my designs to the brother-in-law, who made no sort of difficulty in granting his



consent; but however, after a few days consideration, he expressed himself in so ambiguous and indeterminate a manner, and seemd to refer the conclusion of this business to so great a distance, that I did not think it by any means adviseable to spend more time and money by staying in Hall; especially as I knew that I could still carry on this affair by a literary intercourse, in which too, I should have the assistance of my friend.

I visited the university of Hall, and became acquainted with its celebrated professors: I saw likewise the public library, and the famed orphan-house, erected by the late Dr. Franks; the salt works; the castle Giebichenstein, and every thing else remarkable, in and about the town. I met with several young Hamburgers, my countrymen and old acquaintance, who are students there; these persuaded me to pass thro Leipzig, in my return to Berlin. The ill success I had met with

with in my courtship obliged me to look out for something to divert my thoughts, so that I concluded on this journey without much hesitation; and after taking leave of those from whom I had received civilitys in Hall, I set off. When I took leave of Mademoiselle von R—— in the presence of her sister and brother-in-law, she appeard to be in great confusion, and gave me several stolen, tender looks, and at parting I saw, or thought I saw, the silent tear steal down her cheek. I observd that her behaviour and way of life were quite constraind, from whence I prophesyd good fortune to myself in futurity.

I made no great stay in Leipzig, visiting only some of my old acquaintance and countrymen; I passd thro the city; that is, I took a hasty view of the most remarkable curiositys, and set off as soon as possible for Berlin. I found great difficulty in crossing the Elbe by Witten-  
G 2
berg;

berg; it was so filld with ice, that as it was night when I came to it, I was forced to take up my lodging in a miserable hut, on straw, and in the midst of twenty boors. Here, while I ruminated on my fruitless journey and unfortunate courtship, those fine verses in the 7th book of the Henriade, came into my mind:

Du Dieu qui nous créa, la clemence infinie,  
 Pour adoucir les maux de cette courte vie,  
 A placé parminous, deux êtres bien faisans,  
 De la terre a jamais, aimables habitans  
 Souriens dans les revers, tresors dans  
 l'indégençe ;  
 L'un est le doux sommeil, & l'autre est  
 l'esperance.

“ The great Author of nature, in order to soften the fatigues of this short  
 “ life, in his infinite goodness has given  
 “ us two, beneficent companions; the  
 “ con-

“ constantly amiable inhabitants of the  
 “ earth; the riches of the poor, and our  
 “ comfort in pain and trouble: and  
 “ these are, hope and sleep.” These re-  
 leivd me, I slept soundly till day-light,  
 when I was waked by my noisy comrades.  
 I got into the ferry, where the force of  
 the wind soon dissipated my love fancys.  
 We got safe to the other shore, I set for-  
 ward on my journey, and made the best  
 of my way to Berlin.

After two or three days rest, I wrote  
 M. von S \* \* \* at Hall, a letter full of  
 acknowledgments for all the civilitys he  
 had shewn me; and mentioned, as it  
 were by accident, the great respect I  
 should ever entertain for Mademoiselle  
 von R \* \* \*; dropping some ambiguous  
 expressions at the same time, which seemd  
 to say, that I thought I might be more  
 successful hereafter, when we should both  
 be more at our liberty. But Fortune soon  
 after gave these reflections a quite differ-



ent turn, and dispersd, at least for one while, all thoughts of matrimony.

A few days after my return, I went to the German comedy, which was the only public entertainment there then was in Berlin. On going in, I immediately perceivd the dowager dutchess of Wurtemberg, who, as you know, is a princess of the house of Thurn and Taxis. She had arrived in Berlin during my absence, with a very numerous and splendid retinue; as well with a design to visit the king and the queens, and to form a more close connection with our court, as to see the three young princes her sons, who by the consent of the states of Wurtemberg, are here receiving their education. As I had not yet waited on this princess, I thought it would show want of respect, if I drew too near; and therefore retired to the back part of the theatre. But she observd me between the scenes, and inquiring my name, sent for

for me to come to her. I obeyd; and found she took the respect that I had shewn her, in very good part, and receivd me most graciously.

The next day I no longer delayd to pay the princess my dutiful respects at her palace. Her highnesses master of the ceremonies, appointed my audience to be at noon. But how great was my surprise, when introduced, to find the princess on a bed, in the most rich and elegant night dress that can possibly be conceivd? At the head of the bed I observd a small vessel of gold, which was filld with holy water; the room was ornamented with various costly reliques, and with a crucifix and rosary of the finest crystal. Her highnesses dress, the pillow and coverlid, were all of Merseille, borderd with the richest lace. Her head dress was of Alençonner lace, bound round with a green and gold riband. Figur to yourself, in this charming night dress,

a princess of incomparable merit; possessed of all the wit the human mind can possibly contain, together with a perfect knowledge of the great world; and who yet preservd more than half of the full bloom of beauty, and you will not be surpris'd that such an appearance made a striking impressiion on the imagination of a man of six and twenty. There is something noble in the respect that is due to a soveraign princess. Happy are they who are permitted to wait in her presence; but far happier he, whose daring fate directs him to sit by her side.

The bed was furrounded by the three young princes, attended by their preceptor; by several ministers and courtiers, with two priests, two physicians, and a lady of the bed chamber; which last did not seem too well pleas'd with her station. These dignifyd persons made room, and I was permitted to approach the bed, and had the honor to kiss the  
fair

hand of the dutchess; but with a confusion of which she alone, I imagin, perceivd the cause. By degrees however, I recoverd from my confusion; the princes went out, the priests and the doctors disappeard, and the conversation became animated: after it had lasted about an hour, the princess orderd me to stay and dine with her, and was pleasd graciously to add, " You will excuse my coming  
" to table in this night dress, for I shall  
" put on no other, when I sup with the  
" queen mother." I was perfectly transported with so benign a condescension. Her highness then rung for her ladys; every one left the room, and I waited with the courtiers in the antichamber.

The dutchess came to us, and we followed her into the dining chamber. The conversation at table was highly entertaining, we sat long, and afterwards drank coffee. While the princess dressd, I waited some little time at her toilet, and



as I took my leave, her highness had the goodness to say to me, " Sir, you " can every noon and night, when not " invited at court, find a place at my " table." I have availed myself so effectually of this agreeable offer; have enjoyed so much of the dutchesses bounty, that I seem in a manner to live in the family. I use my best endeavours to procure her highness every little entertainment that is in my power. I have already explained many misconstructions, and reconciled several differences, for which I have received her acknowledgments; and take all opportunities of showing the princess tokens of that profound respect which I bear her, and of the earnest desire I have to contribute to make her residence in Berlin agreeable.

Among those who compose this princesses court, the most remarkable person without doubt, is the marquis D'Argens, the author of Jewish, Chinese, and Cabala-

balistical Letters; of the Philosophy of Good Taste; of Secret Advice from the Kingdom of Science; and of many other valuable works. The reputation of this very learned man, will probably excite in you, a desire of being better acquainted with him, and I know that you wish I would give you a sketch of his character. I shall therefore comply with your desire, by telling you that he is as amiable in his conversation, as he is learned and entertaining in his writings. He is tall, well proportioned, and has a noble appearance. He has the look of a man of rank; there is in his countenance, something that expresses at once, a perfect knowledge of the great world, and a contempt of its vanities. In his bed, where he passes one half of his life, with study and writing, he has more than a German phlegm, and in his conversation more than a French gaiety: add to this, the genius of a poet, the sagacity of a philo-

sopher, the memory of a philologist, the heart of a perfect upright man, and the head of an honest toper, and you will have a tolerable idea of the marquis d'Argens.

The dutchess, tho of a very pleasant disposition, never suffers her wit to shine but by wax light. She frequently gives us an evening entertainment, which is in every sense delicious. Her highness, who is usually in bed, admits a small, intimate company to the feet of it: this company consists almost every night, of the baron von Montolieux; the steward of the household; the marquis D'Argens, baron Pollnitz, M. Jordan, and myself. Good eating and drinking make the body, and mirth the soul of this entertainment. At the head of the bed, the dutchess has two bells, one of which informs the butler when to bring champagne, and the other tokay. After the first course, the page and other servants  
go

go out, and come only in to change the dishes.

As soon as we are alone, all restraint is laid aside; and this little select and joyous society, does not appear to be in the capital of a monarch, and at the table of a sovereign princess, but in some republic, where liberty is the first principal of government. Every one strives to pay his club with wit and humor. We laugh, we sing, we jest; and if any thing too pointed escapes any one, a glass of champagne is immediately prescribed, to take off the sharpness of his wit: and it is an inviolable law of our society, that the moment we leave the room, no one shall remember a syllable of what has passed at the dutchesses table.

In this manner my dear friend have I lately passed my time; but this joy will soon have an end; for the dutchess is preparing to return to Wurtemberg. As you love to search into futurity, and  
take



take great part in the happiness of a people, I must inform you for your satisfaction, that the three young princes of Wurtemberg, are possessed of very uncommon natural endowments; that they are here receiving a noble education, and the manner in which they receive it does them great honor. The human heart ever gives some small preference, you know, to one person before another. Mine declares itself in favour of prince Lewis. I know of nothing in nature more amiable than this young prince.

Farewell, my dearest friend, may you enjoy continual health. Favor me soon with a circumstantial account of your present situation; I expect a paroli to this long letter, and am, &c.

LETTER



## L E T T E R XIII.

To the Marquis D'ARGENS, in Stuttgard.

*Berlin, April 12, 1743.*

**I**T is impossible for me, my dear marquis, fully to express the pleasure your letter has given me. Nothing can be more diverting, than the description of your journey from Berlin to Stuttgard, with the chief marshal count Gotter: but you two were certainly never intended for fellow travellers: he goes constantly to bed at ten at night, and you at three in the morning. He rises with the sun, and you at mid-day; so that he can bid you good morrow when you bid him good night. He dreads the heat, and you the cold; from whence it must necessarily follow, that when he

lets

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lets down one coach window, you pull up the other. I am highly pleas'd with reflecting on the manner of adjusting your differences. His excellency must pay dear for a mouthful of fresh air, by giving you a bottle of tokay, for every hour that you consent to have the coach windows down. But without flattery, my dear friend, the pleasure of your company is above all price: and doubtless it was with the prospect of this enjoyment that he undertook the journey.

I make no doubt but your common friend Horace is of your party. The marshal can repeat him memoriter, and you understand him perfectly well. And tho I am not so passionate an admirer of this poet as you and some others; yet I regard him as an excellent companion on a journey: his descriptions are natural and beautiful; we seem to see the objects before our eyes: with what energy, for example, does he describe the evils to which  
learned

learned men are exposed. And, alas! my worthy marquis, those evils have not decreased since his time. Far otherwise. The manners of modern times, and the maxims of modern princes, have still added evils of which Horace never dreamt.

Could the philosophers and men of genius, of the enlightened age of Augustus, possibly imagin, that after eighteen hundred years, philosophy should have made so little progress, that in one of the most civilized states of Europe, her disciples should be deemed infamous, and their writings burnt by the hands of the public executioner, because, at most, they contained some erroneous metaphysical principles? Had Cicero or Lucretius possessed the spirit of prophecy, they would certainly have laughed immoderately at the stupidity of our times.

The intention of these reflections is, my worthy friend, to prepare you, to receive  
with



with composure and unconcern, the news we have from Rome, which is, that the holy inquisition itself, has orderd your Jewish letters, and the greatest part of your other writings, to be torn and burnt. Tell me now, I beseech you, what tortures did you suffer at the moment your works were so cruelly thrown into the fire? Were your pains intolerable? Did you send forth loud lamentations? And are you become forlorn and emaciated? I fancy not. I much rather believe, that at the moment you was condemned to suffer as a martyr, you found yourself at the table of an illustrious and amiable princess; a catholic princess; who is much better qualifyd to judge of your merit than Messrs. of the inquisition. A princess who honors you with her confidence, and who perhaps at that very moment was delighting in your gay and instructive conversation.

Jesting aside, my dear friend, this  
modern

modern invention in Europe, of burning of books, shocks me extremely. That a book which militates against the government of any country ; or the established religion ; or the sound morals ; or the known laws, on which the happiness of a state are founded ; or that even strikes at the character of one worthy citizen, should be thrown into the fire, I readily consent : such severity is just, and must be attended with wholesom consequences. But that such severity should be exerted against a work of a philosophic nature, which has no view but the inquiry after truth ; which was wrote in a far distant country, and whose author is not our subject ; shows at once, the greatest folly and brutality : and for these reasons ; when a book is burnt by the hands of the executioner, a brand of infamy is endeavourd to be fixd, at least in the eye of the public, on its author ; who at the same time, is frequently a man of infinitely  
more

more merit than his judge. Now could such a punishment have a like effect, on the worthy and sensible part of mankind, it would be more bitter to the author, than death itself.

And say, what right has a Romish priest, or magistrate, or even a sovereign prince, over the person or character of him, who is subject to another potentate, that he should presume to inflict, so severe and scandalous a chastisement? And does not such rash conduct strike at the immutable laws of nations? Or if the sentence which condemns a book to the flames, can reflect no disgrace on the author, must not all the world regard it as a ridiculous illusion; as a peice of mere buffoonery? And what is more, may not the philosophic author, whose works are thus treated, say to his judge, as the saviour of the world said to the servant of the high priest; “ *If I have spoken evil, prove it to be evil, but if well, why strikest thou me?*”

There

There are among the catholic clergy, an innumerable swarm of abbys, monks, lay brothers, and other pretenders to religion. Now why does not the Romish court make use of these, when a bad book, appears, to show the weakness and evil tendency of its principles. Such arguments would operate with far greater force, on the thinking part of mankind, than such as proceed merely from the absolute will and power of a prince or magistrate, and which, let it come from where it will, mankind will ever conclude to be founded on other principles than those of reason and equity. \*

Now it is well known, that the common people are not they who read phi-

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\* These sentiments are just and noble, and command our esteem and veneration wherever they are found; but certainly are most worthy of admiration when produced in the court of an absolute monarch. With us they are natural, there they are exotics, must be nourished with great art and care; and are in continual danger of being withered, by the hard gripe of arbitrary power.

losophical



losophical works, and therefore cannot be misled by their systems, for they in fact, have scarce any system at all in these matters. But the readers are, men of reflection, who are capable of judging of the principles they contain. This being the case, when a book is thrown into the fire, at the command of a magistrate, because it contains tenets, that in his imagination, are prejudicial to religion, does he not himself, in fact, do a very great prejudice to religion? for will not every sensible man say; "This book must certainly contain unanswerable arguments, seeing that the teachers of our religion are not able to refute it, but that the power of the civil magistrate must be called in to suppress it."

You see, Sir, how wide the laws and politics of our days, are from reason, in some of the most civilized states of Europe. And in order to show more fully, the injustice of such proceeding, and the bad  
con-

consequences that must necessarily attend it, permit me to add the following considerations. What philosopher is there, who treats of metaphysical principles, that is hardy enough to assert, that he has clearly and fully demonstrated the truth? I mean that truth, which all the philosophers from Aristotle to this day have been in pursuit of. If it is to be found, I shall be much oblig'd to our magistrates, if they will tell me where. They must therefore burn all metaphysical books, from Aristotle to Wolf, the last included: for there is none of them that does not contain some erroneous principle. In this abstruse science every one must be allow'd to offer his doubts, his conjectures, his postulata; which altogether serve as a scaffold to the building he intends to raise, and which when finish'd, the other may be thrown down as of no further use.

There is something shocking to common sense, in prescribing philosophy  
in

in its inquiry after truth. What man of sense and spirit will ever set about researches of this nature, if he be liable to be insulted by the police, whenever he shall chance to slip into an error? And to what does all this severity tend? To deter philosophers, that honorable rank of men, from giving themselves any concern about the understanding of mankind; but to suffer them to return to that stupidity and superstition, with which they were possessed, before the days of Luther and Calvin: to bring real learning and sound reason into contempt; and to make the clergy triumphant, at the expence of true religion. Suppose some convocation should decree that it was proper for the laity to eat hay and straw, during lent. The philosopher who should be bold enough to maintain the contrary, must have the mortification to see his book burnt by the hands of the common hangman. I turn my thoughts from a practice so base and futile.

As to what concerns you, my dear Marquis, comfort yourself against the injustice of the Romish inquisition. Investigate and publish every day new truths; and nourish yourself at the table of a princess, with ortolans, and birds nests from Tonquin and Golconda, and with all the delicacys that bountiful nature labors to procure you. Recommend to your incomparable duchess, my most dutiful respects; and come quickly again to our country; for I long to see you, and to assure you, face to face, of that high esteem, with which I shall never cease to be, your &c.





L E T T E R   X I V .

To Madam von C\*\* at D\*\*.

*Berlin, June 1, 1743.*

Madam,

**N** E V E R has any anger given me so much uneasiness as yours. You seem to be so heartily concern'd, at the free access I have had to the court of the dutchess of W\*\*\*, that you claim my utmost sollicitude to rid you of your suspicions, and to set your sensible heart at rest.

I foresee that some one, whose interest it is to make me appear evil in your eyes, has been making you poisonous reports, and turning the most innocent conduct into the greatest crime. I shall not here set about an eclaircissement, or trouble

you with a detail of my conduct, and the reasons that have induced me to act as I have done. But I conjure you, my dear and unrivalld friend, that you will yourself come to Berlin, and there receive my justification. The world is full of certain little spirits, who are ever busyd with prying into the conduct of others; are constantly mistaking their intentions, and as constantly giving them a malignant interpretation. I see by your letter that it is my ill fortune to have fallen into the hands of some of these.

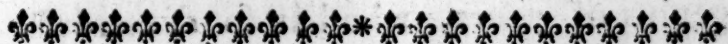
But one word, Madam; only give yourself the trouble of coming hither, and give me the opportunity of putting my enemies to shame. One hours conversation will clear me in your eyes, from every suspicion of infidelity, and convince you, more than millions of oaths, of the sincerity of my declarations, and of the purity of that passion, which I shall ever entertain for

you to my latest breath. The eye of a mistress, but especially of a mistress of quick penetration, can never be deceived in this point. I should fly to D\*\*, could I quit this city without leave: for it is impossible for me to enjoy a moments happiness or ease here, while you are absent, and continue to be displeased with me. There are a thousand pretences for your coming hither; can any thing be more natural, than a desire to see the lady your mother, and to spend sometime with your family? The peace we now enjoy makes our court highly brilliant, and you will complete its lustre; for I know of nothing in this world that is perfect but you.

As you know the frankness of my nature, you cannot suspect the sincerity of these expressions, but will, I hope, use every endeavour to free him from disquiet and misery, who is, and while he exists on this earth, ever will be, with  
the

LETTER XV. 149

the most sincere and ardent devotion,  
Madam, your &c.



LETTER XV.

To Madam von C\*\* at D\*\*.

*Berlin, August 1743.*

SINCE letters were first invented to express the ideas of the mind, never, I believe have flown from any pen, more beautiful lines, than those I have just receivd from yours. Charming as Fontenelle is, I find his most pleasing passages, barely equal to yours. Ardor and tenderness, are there expressd in such glowing colors, that I seem to see your heart, and thereon engravd, the most transporting passion, that ever yet the human soul produced. Mine in reality is by no means inferior to yours; but alas,

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Madam,



Madam, I have nothing of that happy expression which you possess. Send me therefore, I entreat you, that skilful love genius of yours, who has so dexterously guided your hand. Mine, to say the truth, is strong and hearty enough, but he knows not how to express himself, but in a plain, dull manner. Besides, Madam, you cannot conceive what an insatiable rogue, this love genius of mine is. When you shall come here, he will never know how to be contented with your caresses. You cannot imagine how transported he was, at the news of your intended journey to Berlin. He is already looking out for you, and seems continually impatient to hover round you, on your journey.

Name but the day of your departure, Madam, and I will go to \* \* \* to meet you, that you may see how great my desire is, again to see you. There shall these love geniuses of ours, combat with  
each

each other. And as I am fatisfyd that mine is the strongest, I have no doubt but he will lay yours prostrate; but be not concernd, madam; for that downfal will certainly tend to procure yours the greater triumph. I already highly enjoy this combat in imagination. A thousand rapturous sensations this moment fill my soul.

Hitherto have I devoted myself to the muses, henceforth love alone shall be my divinity; for the splendor of his glory has darkened all their lustre. Farewell my lyre, adieu my pen, farewell my pencil. Yes! henceforth shall love alone posses my soul! and never shall my hand touch you more, but to sing his praise, or paint his charms.

Hast then hither, Madam, and join your powers to banish these rivals; for these are the only ones you ever had. As I live in the great world, I am surrounded with beautys, but you appear to me, of

a rank far superior to all these. These I regard as my friends, and treat with complaisance. But what a difference when you appear. How does the blood then glow in my veins. And how am I transported when I approach you? When I receive your letters? or when I do but hear your name mentioned? why does my color then come and go? and whence this pleasing confusion in my mind? You, Madam, can easily guess the cause. Hasten therefore your intended journey; and do not lose time in carefully reading this letter; it does not deserve it: for these lines are far too weak to express that fervent affection, with which to my latest breath I shall never cease to be, Madam, your, &c.

P. S. At the moment I was closing this, I received your second letter; you are on the point you say, of setting out to Berlin and to me. Madam, I depart instantly to meet you. Come then quickly!

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quickly! Fly! and happy be your flight!



LETTER XVI.

To M. von Hagedorn, in Hamburg.

*Berlin, Nov. 10, 1743.*

SINCE the reign of Frederic the first of Prussia, there has been at Berlin, a roial society of science. It was erected and endowd by that monarch, who has left so many monuments of his grandeur and munificence. The celebrated baron Leibnitz, one of the greatest geniuses that human nature ever produced, laid the first plan of it, and drew up its statutes. He was appointed president, and continued so till his death.

Beside the benefactions which the king had granted this society at its institution,

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M.



M. Leibnitz found out a new source of emolument, which, so to speak, sprang up within itself: which was, by obtaining from the king, an exclusive privilege in favor of the society, of printing all almanacks used in the Prussian dominions. On this condition however, that the society should be obliged to furnish the public with every kind of almanack, composed with the greatest accuracy, and in the most convenient form; and in which the agreeable and the useful should be properly united. The society drew all advantage possible from this royal munificence: and their diarys, the most correct and ingenious of any in Europe, were eagerly sought after by distant nations. They acquired hereby a very considerable income, by which they were enabled not only to defray all necessary expences, but to allow very handsome salarys to such of the members as lived in Berlin, and were particularly employed

ployed in the business of the society. The king caused a very commodious observatory to be built for them, as well as the other apartments necessary for their meetings and regulations: and by degrees they collected a handsom library, and cabinet of natural curiositys.

It seems as if M. Leibnitz was possessed of a spirit of divination: for he put the society to the expence of establishing an anatomical theatre; which the hospitals were to furnish in the winter months with proper subjects: and where able professors were to read public lectures on surgery, obstetrics, and their dependant arts. Expensive and difficult as the establishing this theatre was, and extravagant as it seemd for a society of science which still was in its infancy, yet certain it is, that it was to this institution that in futur time, the society owed its preservation. So that we are persuaded to think, its founder foresaw an approaching danger.

M. Leibnitz brought together a number of learned men who composed this roial society; and added thereto, those of the greatest reputation for learning, in different parts of Europe, under the title of foreign members. This new society pursued their inquiries with the greatest alacrity; and by the progress they made became soon greatly eminent: and published accounts of their transactions under the title of *Miscellanea Berolinensia*; which were held in esteem by all the learned of Europe.

As long as Frederic the first, and Leibnitz livd, these memoirs appeared regularly, and the application of the members was indefatigable. But when Frederic William mounted the throne, he brought with him, a disposition for war alone, and a contempt for learning. And consequently, a kind of aversion for all that the king his father had honored. Almost all the revenues of the state were  
 turned

turn'd into the channel of war; and the appointments of the society were in great danger of being carryd away by the torrent, and buryd in that abyfs. The members of the society trembled; but then it was that they found the advantage of the anatomical theatre, which was bound up with their institution. The new king thought, and with reason, that this school of surgery, was of the last importance to his army; and under the shade of anatomy, the whole body of science rested secure.

This society however had many mortifications to undergo, which must have necessarily damped their zeal for the improvement of science. The king quarterd several court fools on their revenues; and one, who to say the best of him, was just not a fool, was even appointed their vice president. Now this, by reflecting disgrace on the society, gave a disgust to learned foreigners; who were no longer desirous



desirous of becoming members of a society, which the sovereign himself held in derision. Many of the most active members suffered their spirits to sink: their proceedings became tedious and irregular; and their labors were treated with contempt. The king proposed to the society, from time to time, questions of meer drollery, and they answered him in a suitable strain. He once asked them, for example; “ *What was the physical cause, that two glasses, when filled with champagne wine, and struck against each other, gave not that clear and sharp tone, as when filled with any other wine? And what was the cause of their dull and flat sound?*” The members answered, that as they had not been used to drink champagne, they could not pretend to assign the cause. The king sent them a dozen bottles to make the experiment. They drank out the wine, but determined nothing.

This

This society however still nourishd many members, who were of the highest reputation in the republic of learning: yet there was so great a languor in their proceedings, that from 1710, to 1740, there appeard only six volumes of the *Miscel. Berolin.* and the seventh and last volume was printed in 1743. But irregular as these memoirs appeard, they were not the less esteem'd by men of science.

In this situation was the Berlin society, when in the month of May, 1740, Frederic the second ascended the throne. This was the favorit son of the Muses; it was natural therefore that he should be their protector. But the warful state, in which he found his dominions, would not permit him to give much attention to letters; and war and peace succeeded each other so often and so quick, that the intervals were not long enough for any considerable undertaking of this nature. The king however, in the midst of the  
operations

operations of war, collected the materials of that fabric, so to speak, which should make his kingdom renowned in peace. He drew divers learned men to his court, who were of the greatest reputation in other parts of Europe. The celebrated Wolf, was recalled, and appointed chancellor of the university of Hall. M. Euler, a mathematician of the first rank, and perhaps the greatest algebraist that ever existed, left Petersburg to reside in Berlin. M. Maupertuis; Count Algarotti; and even Voltaire himself, have passed whole years at the court of Frederic, without however making it their place of fixed residence. The war of 1744, still deferred this business for a long time.

A short time before that war, in which the king gathered fresh laurels on the plains of Friedberg, Hennerdorf, Sohr, and Kesselsdorff; his learned courtiers availing themselves of their peaceful hours,

hours, prosecuted their studys with unwearyd assiduity ; and exerted every faculty to bring learning again into esteem. Marechal count Schmettau, field general of the ordnance ; and M. von Bork, cabinet minister to the king ; agreed between themselves, to collect a learned society, and to have their meetings at each others house alternately. They opened their design to M. Jordan and me, and we received it with transport. Each one exerted himself in raising recruits for this new company ; and in a short time, we had collected a sufficient number of able and learned men in every branch of science, who were associated with us in this new society.

The first meeting, which consisted of a considerable number, was held at marechal Schmettaus. M. von Francheville opened it by reading a very fine ode, composed on this occasion. They then sketched out a set of laws, in which it  
was



was laid down, as fundamental maxims, that this was not an empire, or kingdom, but a republic of learning, the citizens of which must enjoy the greatest freedom, if any thing excellent was expected from their labors : that the understanding could suffer no restraint : that the members of this academy were not pupils ; and that there wanted no other regulations, but such as were necessary to preserve order, and to connect the members into a perfect union with each other. I was appointed to draw up these regulations ; to conduct the register ; and afterwards to the office of secretary to this society.

This private undertaking had the good fortune to be so well approved by the king, that he was graciously pleased to declare himself its protector : and this protection of his majesty, was not a mere empty honor ; far otherwise ; this monarch orderd a handsome room in the palace to be prepar'd, for its reception.

And

And took this opportunity to institute a *Royal Academy of Science and Belles Lettres*, by consolidating the old Berlin society with this new one.

By a royal edict of the 13th of November 1743, his majesty appointed several commissioners, and directed them to inquire into the state of the finances of the old society, and to draw up the institutes of the new academy. These commissioners were, marechal count Schmettau, M. von Viereck; count Podewils; Mess. von Marschall; von Armin; and Bork, all state ministers; M. von Jariges, privy councillor\*; M. Eller, the kings first physician; the privy councillor Jordan; and myself.

This commission held a great number of meetings, and were at no small pains in developing the accounts of the old society; and in making such dispositions

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\* Since raised to the high dignity of great chancellor.

as were agreeable to the kings intentions, in settling his new academy, on a broad and solid foundation. In looking over the old register, when I came to the pensions granted by the late king Frederic William, I could not read without the highest indignation, I do assure you, such articles as these; "So much to his majestys court fools." These dolts were, the vice president of the society; another wretch named Astralicus, &c. A wonderful honor for science this! What a difference in judgment between fathers and sons.

At last the plan was settled, and laid before the king, who was pleas'd to approve of it, in every part, and when his majesty sign'd it, he was graciously pleas'd to give this society the title of a roial academy of science, and to confirm all its privileges. His majesty was likewise pleas'd to declare himself publicly its protector; to authenticate its statutes; and to approve of all the pensions, which  
the

the commissioners had appointed for the acting members.

This, Sir, is the state of this academy, and the following is the plan on which it is instituted.

A protector, who is the king

Four presidents, who superintend alternately, each six months. These are, count Schmattau, M. von Viereck, count Gotter, and M. von Bork : all state ministers.

A vice president ; the privy counselor Jordan.

An unlimited number of honorary members ; who are not in the least obliged to apply to the business of the society ; and who on the other hand enjoy no pensions.

A settled number of acting members, who are to promote the business of the society, in conformity to its statutes ; to attend the meetings ; and to deliver in certain



certain propositions. All these enjoy pensions, and live in Berlin.

A constant secretary; the privy councillor Jariges.

The academical historiographer; the professor Formey.

An unlimited number of foreign members, who are dispersed over all Europe.

The members of the old society; who are received as acting members of this new one, and live in Berlin; but are not obliged to apply to the business of the academy, on account of their seniority.

The academy is divided into four classes; each of which has its director and secretary. The first class, has for its object, the mathematics, in their full extent. The second, speculative philosophy, metaphysics, morality, the laws of nature and nations, &c. The third, physics, and what is called experimental philosophy,

philosophy, including chymestry, &c. And the fourth, is devoted to the polite arts.

The academy meets every Thursday afternoon; and in each class by rotation, some performance is read by some member, relative to the business of that class

The choice of the subject is left to the academist, whose turn it is to read. When this reading is over, the secretary gives an account of all letters, propositions, or other ingenious and useful matters, which have been communicated by foreign members, or other correspondents. The academists then relate such discoveries, or improvements, as they may have made: so that the happy arrangement of this academy, resembles a beehive, into which the several members come loaded with honey, drawn from the choicest flowers of science.

All those pieces which are read before the academy, are deposited in their archives; and

and at the end of the year, three or four, of the best in each class, are again read over, collected together, and make a volume of memoirs for that year ; to which are added, the eulogys of the deceased members ; and whatever else can contribute to the benefit of society.

The academy holds two public and solemn assemblies : the one on the 24th of January, the kings birth day ; and the other on the 31st of May, the day of his accession to the throne. On this occasion they declare, the annual prize of fifty ducats ; and the names of those foreign members, whose pieces have received the approbation of the society. The princes and princesses of the blood, foreign princes and ministers, and a great number of persons of rank, honor these assemblies with their presence.

The academy has for its seal, the same device, which the late M. Leibnitz invented for the royal society ; as nothing  
can

can be more happily conceivd. It is composd of an eagle with the wings extended, and ready to fly up to heaven, with his eye fixd on the Pleiades ; and this motto,

*Cognata ad sidera tendit.*

This, my dear friend, is the history, and present state of this new society ; of which you are so desirous to have an account ; and as I know that you will make a very worthy member, I am using my endeavours to introduce you. As to what concerns myself, I am only an honorary member, for as I dont know whether his majesty will appoint me to a foreign court, I am not willing to accept an office, which may be incompatible with my situation. I have the honor to be, &c.





## LETTER XVII.

To Madam von STUVEN, at Bayreuth.

*Berlin, August 20 1744.*

**S**O then, my dear sister, you would have me give you an account of all that has passd at our court, on occasion of the marriage of the princess Ulrica, with the heir of the crown of Sweden. You know my weakness, and tho I may be willing to write accounts of this nature, yet am I by no means able to succeed, even to my own wish: however, as you will not be denyd, I shall make an essay, and of all that I have been an eye witness, will give at least, a true relation.

It was with the highest reluctance, that the king, and her majesty the queen mother, could prevail on themselves, to  
part

part with a sister and a daughter so greatly beloved as the princess Ulrica ; a princess in whom the charms of beauty, the graces of the mind, the greatest dignity of soul, and all the virtues of the human heart, are united. Every one wished to see so many virtues adorn a crown, but no one could think of parting with them forever. There was a strong contest in the hearts of their majestys and of the princess herself, betwixt policy, and natural affection.

The treaty for this marriage, was committed, by the Swedish court, to the care of an able minister, M. Rudenschildt ; and this minister had the strongest motives to excite his endeavours to complete it. His business was, to obtain on all-accomplishd princess, as a consort for an amiable, and highly virtuous prince, and one who was already declared the heir of a crown. He at length overcame all difficultys, and one

morning as he had an audience of the king, he urged the great advantages that would attend this union, with so much force, that his majesty said to him, with a very gracious mien, “ Sir, come “ to me again in the afternoon, I will “ talk with the queen my mother, and “ with the princess, and I hope to give “ you an agreeable answer.” In consequence, after dinner M. Rudenschildt waited again on the king, and received permission from his majesty, to dispatch a courier instantly to Stockholm, with the consent of both their majestys, and the princess, to this happy union. Two days after it was publicly declared at court, and every one immediately set about the necessary preparations for celebrating this festival, with the greatest splendor and magnificence.

About the same time, his majesty had granted me leave to make a short journey of three weeks to Hamburg. I had  
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by this means an opportunity of waiting on her serene highness the dowager dutchess of Holstein; the mother to the heir of the crown of Sweden. This illustrious and highly respectable princess, was greatly pleas'd with the intended marriage of the prince her son, and with the choice he had made. She was very desirous that I would give her the character of the bride princess; a sketch of which I made the more readily, as there was no occasion for flattery, and I had nothing to do, but to express the real sentiments of my heart.

I return'd to Berlin loaded with extraordinary marks of favor; and found on my arrival, the whole Prussian court, busied with preparations for these roial nuptials. All the shops were empty'd of rich stuffs, brocade, embroidery, lace, and every thing else that could conduce to furnish out a splendid



appearance. The principal rooms in the palaces of Berlin, Charlottenburg, and Monbijoux, were made ready for the performance of these sumptuous entertainments. The king gave orders for performing a very fine opera, with an occasional prologue; and read over himself, several comedys that should be performed in the course of the nuptial festivals. All foreign ministers provided themselves with magnificent dresses, and with superb equipages. The ladys, above all, labord day and night in preparing for a brilliant appearance; the complexion sufferd by so close and earnest attention; and the natural beauty was in danger of being lost, in the pursuit of artificial finery.

The Swedish court, on their part, appointed the celebrated count Tessin, for the solemn reception of the princess; and to beseech his roial highness the prince of Prussia,

Prussia, to perform the religious part of the ceremony, as proxy for the heir of the Swedish crown. This nobleman, who to a pleasing figur, joins the strongest facultys of the mind; sound politics, and the finished manners of a courtier, arrived at Berlin with a most splendid retinue. He had in his train, the flower of the Swedish nobility. Among whom were the young counts of Horn, Fersen, and Taube; the barons von Brake and Wrangle; and many others, who drew great attention.

The public entry of this ambassador, was in every respect correspondent to the high commission he bore. His liverys and equipages were equally sumptuous and elegant. Six white horses, with blue and silver harness, drew his first state coach, the paintings and other decorations of which were admirably beautiful. The ambassador had the same day, his audience of the king, the two queens,

the bride princess, the prince of Prussia, and other princes and princesses of the blood. The speech he made on this occasion, was very well conceived, but by no means too loftily expressed; it consisted more of court compliment, than polite erudition. As soon as those ceremonies, which are necessary on these important occasions, were over, the court and the ambassador, laid aside all restraint, and devoted themselves entirely to pleasure.

The countess of Tessin is no longer in the bloom of youth, and can make no pretensions to beauty: however, she has a tall agreeable person; a pleasing countenance; a noble air; always dresses in taste; speaks with propriety and elegance; has much wit, and by her long residence in Paris, has acquired the perfect air and manners of the French. She was accompanied by the young baroness of Sparre; of whom I dont know whether I should give you a de-

description, or not, lest you should think that I am captivated by her charms: however it is best to speak the truth: I confess, my dear sister, there may be something in it; for never in my life have I seen a more amiable lady than this; one who unites with a charming form, so sprightly, so subtle and alluring a wit. Her eyes are so full of fire, so keen, and yet so tender, so . . . . but enough; do not desire to know more; for it would be dangerous to examine those eyes too closely. Her heart appears to be as excellent as her person. She has many other uncommon accomplishments; dances admirably well, and has a perpetual flow of gaiety.

The ambassador resides in the Schwefinschin palace, in William street, the finest in Berlin. He has in his audience chamber, a throne of deep blue velvet, over which is the Swedish arms, and under the canopy, is the picture of the king.



of Sweden, as large as the life ; and very finely painted. Every day he has a public dinner, and every evening he is either at court, or receives company at his house. From the time of his arrival, to the princesses departure, every day was distinguished by some remarkable diversion. Banquets, operas, comedys, balls, illuminations, and other entertainments, succeeded each other in continual rotation.

All the rich presents, which made part of the princesses portion, were for three days together, placed for public view, in a chamber of the palace: and all who had the curiosity to see them, agreed, that the king had spared no expence, in adorning so beloved a sister, in a manner suitable to her high birth, and to that supreme rank for which she was destined in Sweden. The portion of 100,000 dollars, was paid, in weighty ducats, into the hands of M. Rudenschildt, who was properly authorised to receive it.

At length the day arrived for the celebration of these splendid nuptial rites. In the morning the ambassador sent the princess four Swedish gentlemen to attend her, and hereafter to make part of her court; and a like number to his roial highness the prince of Prussia, who was, on this occasion, to represent the person of the heir of Sweden. To these were added pages, valets, and other domestics; and the princess put all her servants into the Swedish livery. The king, on his part, gave the princess, ladies of the bedchamber, gentlemen and servants from his court, who were to wait on her highness, as a foreign princess.

At six in the evening the whole court was assembled in the presence chamber; the lustre of this august assembly dazzled the sight. Every one had exerted their abilities to the utmost, in making a sumptuous appearance. The dress of the young Swedish nobility, of whom there

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were six and thirty, was very rich, and of infinit taste. The kings dress was of a bright blue, completely covered with silver embroidery. The princess came last. Her appearance was amazingly grand and beautiful; her whole figure was one blaze of diamonds. The greatest part of these were brought her from Sweden, by count Tessin. I admired among the rest, a necklace, and two bracelets of brilliants, that had been collected at different times, in the kingdom of Sweden itself, and which made part of the jewels of that crown.

After the prince and princess had saluted their majestys, they approached the altar, which was erected under a canopy, and there received from the hands of the confessor to the queen mother, who is a Lutheran, the holy benediction. A triple discharge of the cannon on the ramparts, made known to the inhabitants of Berlin, the performance of these nuptials.

nuptials. The princess then receivd the congratulations of the whole court, as well on occasion of the present ceremony, as with reference to the future completion of these marriage rites at the Swedish court.

The king sat down early to table, and to that where his majesty sat, none were admitted but princes and princeesses; except the ladys of the ambassadors. All the dishes, plates, chandeliers, and in short, every thing that was used at this table, was of solid gold. There were besides four other sumptuous tables, which were placed in rooms adjacent to the great hall; and in every respect, this roial feast was conducted with a splendor and magnificence, which had never been before seen in Berlin.

After dinner, there was danced, as usual on the occasion, the dance of torches, which was followd by a ball, that lasted till broad day.

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The next day, which was Wednesday, there was a comedy, and in the evening, an open table at court. On Thursday her majesty the reigning queen, gave a noble entertainment at Schonhausen. On Friday there was an opera; and on Saturday her majesty the queen mother, gave a supper, an illumination, and a ball, at Monbijoux. On Sunday was no entertainment, but state visits as usual, in the morning to the king, and in the evening to the queen mother.

Monday afternoon, the court and the gentry of the town, of both sexes, went with their gay carriages and liverys, to Charlottenburg. This procession, by affording a very pleasing prospect, made part of the entertainments.

The great road that goes thro the Thiergarden of Berlin, and quite up to Charlottenbourg, was throngd with company. At different spaces on the road, tents were set up, where the citizens of  
 Berlin

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Berlin reposed, refreshed and amused themselves, with beholding the transition of the splendid equipages, some drawn by pairs, and some by sets of horses. When the company came to the palace they assembled in the orangery, which forms a gallery of a prodigious length. This whole gallery was adorned with wreaths and groups of living flowers, and with lamps of various colors; and in every window was placed, a blowing orange tree, which at the same time that they afforded a delightful prospect, gave a most agreeable scent to the whole apartment. At the end of this gallery was erected, a small elegant theatre, where his majesty caused an Italian operetta, or pastoral, to be performed, which was interspersed with very fine dances. The incomparable Solim-biny here excelled himself. You know, my dear sister, that I am not quite ignorant of the principles of musick, and that I have heard at London, Farinelli, Senofini,

Senofini, M. les Strada, Cuzzoni, and Gvigiello, and others. But I do assure you, that I give our Solimbiny the preference to all these. I grant at the same time, that Farinelli has more power, and that I am astonishd and transported by his performance. But the touches of Solimbiny are more tender and pleasing; the one sings to the ear, the other to the heart.

When the opera was over, the whole court went on the great terrace, from whence they beheld the whole garden illuminated; after half an hour spent in walking, they sat down to supper. Never before did I eat at so great a table, and probably never shall again; it consisted of 300 covers, and took up almost the whole orangery, from one end to the other. All persons of any rank were admitted without distinction. The king, the queens, the princes and princesses sat at the middle of this table, under a sort  
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of canopy; and on each side of them, sat the cabinet ministers, the foreign ministers, and ladies of the first quality, and after them the rest of the company without ceremony, each one where he could find a place.

The supper was magnificent, and every part of it in the highest perfection. There was not the least want of any thing, and the company was servd with the greatest regularity and dispatch: for which purpose the kings whole livery, and a hundred huntsmen, attended: and for their greater convenience, in every nich of the gallery, was placed a side-board, where they found every thing necessary, ready to their hands. Imagin to yourself, my dear sister, what a quantity of plates and dishes were requisit to serve a table of 300 persons. On this occasion it was found necessary to take a large quantity of plate, out of the roial treasury, where it had been deposited by Frederic



Frederic the first, and Frederic William. In a word, every part of this repast was complete. The company sat long at table ; and were greatly pleas'd with partaking of an entertainment, that the king alone could give.

After table the company return'd to the garden ; and on the Spree, that runs at the bottom of it, by his majestys direction, a very grand fire work was play'd off. While this was performing M. Frederisdorf caus'd the table to be removed, and the orangery prepar'd for a ball. We were astonish'd at our return. The alteration was so sudden that it appear'd to be the work of enchantment. The king open'd the ball with the princess roial of Sweden, and the whole court danc'd till day light : and on our return to Berlin, we found the road still fill'd with company.

The next day, which was Tuesday, was a day of rest ; and in fact we had need  
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of some respite, to recruit our exhausted spirits. On Wednesday the king gave a superb entertainment in the apartments of the reigning queen. In the evening was an opera, which was performed with great excellence. After the opera, the whole court repaired to the palace of the Swedish ambassador; which we found highly illuminated; on the outside with lamps, and on the inside with wax candles: and these illuminations were disposed with great taste: the Swedish and Prussian arms; the ciphers of the prince and princess intertwined with each other, and decorated with Cupids; the emblems and mottos, were all finely conceivd. The table was not only grand and costly, but the provisions of every kind were highly delicate: which excited the more admiration as the prodigious heat of the weather, made it extremely difficult. They were obliged to send sea fish, and featherd game, from Hamburg.

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in cafes surrounded with ice. The honors at the different tables were done by the Swedish nobility, who took due care to preserve regularity, and to give satisfaction, every where. Mademoiselle von Sparre did me the honor, to ask my assistance, and we did our best, to make the table, where she presided, as gay as possible. After supper count Tessin entertained his illustrious guests, with a beautiful firework, which was performed in the garden of his palace; and this noble festival concluded with a ball.

From this day to the time of the princesses departure, Berlin enjoyed one continued scene of pleasure; and tho there were no more sumptuous and majestic festivals, yet were the diversions not the less pleasing. But at length the day of separation arrived. The king had appointed the chief mareschal, count Gotter, to conduct the princess to Stralsund, where two Swedish senators, several of the nobility,

nobility, with other ladys and gentlemen of that court waited to receive her. His majesty who judged by the emotions of his own heart, that the moment of separation would be attended by the severest affliction, directed an opera to be performd with a view to dissipate the thoughts of it : and ordered the ordinary table to be served in the great hall, with a cold, but very elegant collation.

The plan was so laid, that after the opera, the princess should make a short supper ; slip on her riding cloak ; embrace her relations ; throw herself into the coach, and depart like lightning. Count Gotter was chargd to conduct this plan, and to hasten the departure. But all his care was useless. The transcendent virtues of the princess Ulrica, made her too dear to her family, and her country, to suffer the cruel moment of eternal separation, to pass without marks of the deepest distress.

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When I enterd the opera I saw grief and dejection, set on every countenance. The princess was dressd in a rose colord amazonian habit, trimd with silver; the lappels and vest were of a sea green. She had on, an English hat of black velvet, adorn'd with a white feather; and her flowing hair was tyd with a rose colord riband: she appeard as beautiful as love itself. But this elegant dress, that heightened her charms, increas'd our anxiety; by telling us that the hour was come, when we were to lose her for ever. In the second act, the young prince Ferdinand came into the state box, threw his arms round the princesses neck, and bathing her with his tears, cryd out, "*Ab! my dear Ulrica, now it is done! now I shall never see you more!*" The grief that lay smothering at every heart, touch'd by these words, burst forth with greater violence. The princess held her brother fast in her arms, and could only answer  
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with sighs and tears. The two queens could no longer refrain from weeping. The princes and princesses joind their tears. Noble hearts cannot behold their sovereigns in distress, without partaking of their affliction. The grief was infectious, it seizd in a moment all the first ranks of the boxes, which were filld with the principal nobility. Every one had distinct cause for sorrow, and every one melted into tears. Nobody any longer regarded the opera, and I found my heart so oppressd and afflicted, that I was glad when it was over.

A secret motion carryd me, against my will, into the palace. I enterd the kings chamber, and found the whole roial family, surrounded by part of the nobility. Here was the fulness of sorrows. Every one was dissolv'd in grief: and here I beheld a scene, the more affecting as it was the mere work of nature; and where the sincerity of passion was expressd with  
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an energy, that it is impossible for art to imitate. The king had wrote an ode on the departure of the princess, wherein he gives her the last adieu, in a most tender and affecting manner, it ended with these words,

So, go my sister, go ;  
Sweden now waits, Sweden now longs for  
thee.

His majesty gave it the princess, at the moment she was going to embrace the queen. She cast her eyes over it ; her spirits left her, and she fainted under the weight of distress. Scarce could the king restrain his spirits from following hers : the tears flowd hastily down his cheeks. All the princes and princesses, stood fixd in grief. At last count Gotter, who thought it was now time to end this mournful scene, rushd into the chamber, like the north wind upon a bed of roses, with noise and fury ; forced thro the  
circle ;

circle; snatchd the princess from the arms of the queen her mother, and bore her out of the chamber. The whole court followd; and in a moment the princess found herself in the coach, which stood in the court before the palace.

My mind was so distracted, that I know not which way I got down stairs: but I remember that I heard on every side, sighs, groans and the crys of grief. The countess of Schwerin who was appointed to accompany the princess to Stralsund; and the ladys von Knessebeck and Sparre, placed themselves in the coach with her highness. The stroke was instantaneous. The coachman drove furiously on; the coach flew before our eyes; and in a moment the king and the court lost sight of the beloved Ulrica for ever; and remaind for some minutes, amazed and motionless.

Permit me, my dear sister, here to end my letter, for the remembrance of this



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scene so much affects me, that I have only power to assure you of that perfect tenderness, with which I am, &c.



L E T T E R XVIII.

To M. von M\*\* at Hanover.

*Berlin, October, 1714.*

A Few days after the departure of the princess roial of Sweden, I made a visit to my worthy, and highly honord friend M. Jordan: I found his health greatly impaired; he coughd violently, and it seemd to me as if all was not right within. After talking of indifferent matters, he said to me, in an affecting manner, and with an uncommonly complaining tone: "My dearest friend; I see  
 " too well, that my sickness will not be  
 " soon over, and I fear a long continuance  
 " of it. In the mean time, I am growing  
 " daily

“ daily older ; and am, as it were, deserted  
 “ in Berlin : my daughters are at boarding,  
 “ and all my relations are busyd with their  
 “ own affairs. Come then and live with  
 “ me. There is a handsom chamber empty  
 “ in this house. You will have the use of  
 “ my large library ; and we shall study  
 “ together. You can eat at my table ; and  
 “ I shall have the comfort to think, that I  
 “ have constantly by me, a sincere friend.”

If this proposal had not been in itself agreeable, yet was I in no condition to refuse so worthy a man ; and one, who in a country, and at a court where I was a stranger, had been to me a father. I consented therefore immediately to his desire, and gave him my word. We orderd the mistress of the house to be calld up, and agreed with her for the rent. The chamber was made ready, and in two or three days I moved into it.

I was the better pleasd with having taken this resolution, as we remarkd for

some short time before, certain disquiet motions in the city, and in the whole state, which seemd to predict a new war. In fact, the Austrian arms and the British fleet, make all the world tremble. Charles VII. the worthiest prince that ever livd, totters on his imperial throne. His power is a mere shadow; and he lives like a private gentleman at Frankfort on the Maine. His dominions are a prey to the enemy. Prince Charles of Lorraine has passd the Rhine, forced the lines at Weissenburg in Alsace, and marchd against Saverne, in order to penetrate thro Champagne, into the heart of France. Lewis XV. lies dying at Metz. Count Rothenburg was dispatchd to Paris, and on his return, mareschal von Schmettau was appointed the kings ministers to his most christian majesty. The landgrave William of Hesse, has been the whole winter in Berlin, endeavouring to persuade the king to accede to the confederacy

deracy of Frankfort, which several princes have for some time past enterd into. The design of which is, to support Charles VII. on the imperial throne, and to maintain the libertys of the Germanic body.

The Prussian troops had orders to hold themselves in readiness for a march. A great quantity of artillery was got ready: and even the cannon were drawn out of the arsenal at Berlin. All this prophesyd a terrible war. And in fact our suspicions were very soon confirmd. His majesty publishd a manifesto, or declaration of war; set himself at the head of his army; marchd thro Saxony; penetrated into Bohemia; laid siege to Prag, and in a very short time made himself master of that capital.

The absence of the king, the princes, and garrison, makes Berlin appear solitary, and disagreeable. However, I find myself here quite happy in the company



of my friend Jordan; who, notwithstanding his illness, maintains a constantly chearful disposition, and a conversation that is as pleasing as learned. The mornings we devote to the Muses; we breakfast, we read and write together: about eleven we receive the visits of the physician, and our friends. We dress, and make a temperate meal. After dinner when the weather is fine, we walk. On our return, we apply again to our studys, or we play a party at billiards. Towards evening we have commonly visitors; and sometimes some of the first ladys of Berlin, honour us with their company. Our suppers are chearful, and we go early to bed.

Now tho I observe the greatest care and diligence in attending my friend Jordan, yet do I by no means forget the court and the world. A too close confinement is neither agreeable to my age, nor my views in life. I have yet  
my

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my fortune to make, in the world : and M. Jordans way of thinking is far too rational to imagin that I can make it in a sick chamber. I preserve notwithstanding, all possible sollicitude for his welfare : and nothing in life gives me so great concern, as to see a health that is so precious to me, daily declining.

M. Jordan and I were setting one day\* in his library, quite still ; when our reading was interrupted by a triple discharge of the cannon on the ramparts, which declared to the inhabitants, that her roial highness the princess of Prussia had a son. We ran to the window, and saw that in the street, and in the court before the palace all was gay. Joy had taken possession of every place ; gladness was markd on every countenance. A moment after we saw M. Schwerin, the

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\* This was the 25th of September 1744, about noon.

kings master of the horse, going by, as courier to the army, with this important news to his majesty and the prince of Prussia. And certainly there could happen no event more interesting, more happy for the nation, than this. This child is the first male branch from all the princes now living, of the royal house of Prussia and Brandenburg: and our country can never offer to God, sufficient prayers, for the preservation of this invaluable produce of so illustrious an origin. The king in fact earnestly wishd, that the princess might have a son. His wishes are now accomplishd; he is in every respect happy. And when I look heedfully into futurity I think I see, all causes combining, to increase and perpetuate the grandeur of the Prussian monarchy.

For the rest, my dear friend, I have for a month past been employd, by order of the council for foreign affairs, in  
 translating

translating a short work, that has been lately publishd in England, and is wrote on the present situation of affairs, and which contains reflexions on the system of the king, my master, that are at once just and advantageous. It is calld, "Natural Reflexions on the conduct of Great-Britain in the present War." As I have used my best endeavours to preserve the energy of the English expression, in this French translation, I have printed it in quarto, with the original, in two columns. I take the liberty to send you a copy, that you may judge if my translation be just, and whether our printing be improved. The bookseller Hande, has left nothing undone to procure an elegant impression. You will do me the favor to give me your opinion without reserve, and be assured, that no man in the world is with greater respect, &c.



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 L E T T E R . XIX.

To Madam von C\*\*\* at R\*\*.

*Berlin, October 10, 1745.*

Madam,

**W**HILE you amuse yourself in the country, with the vintage, I die of disgust in Berlin, for want of your company. I feel, every day more sensibly, how difficult it is for me to live separated from you. However, you have commanded me to write to you, and this command I find a real consolation.

You dont require that I should send you news, for you dont wish that my letter should resemble a Gazette ; nor do you ask a fatirical description of what passes at court, or in the city : but you desire that I would give you my sentiments without reserve, on subjects that  
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more nearly concern you : that we should maintain a rational intercourse. In a word, that our correspondence should supply the place of conversation. Now all this would be highly agreeable to me, provided my sentiments be happy enough to coincide with yours, and that I do not, by blundering on wrong principles, forfeit that good opinion you are pleas'd to entertain of me.

For a trial, Madam, I will hear relate the substance of the last conversation we had at the lady your mothers. You know that a coquette is an inexhaustible subject. For these animals afford occasion for a thousand reflexions. I should not treat this subject with so much freedom, were I not certain that your soul is incapable of admitting the least taint of so base a passion as coquetry.

I divide the sex into four classes ; and in the first I place ; *the good sort of Woman*. These have neither beauty, wit,

nor sentiment. They grow like plants ; move like machines ; place their great happiness in their good man ; just propagate their species ; and by their death acquire the title of honest good sort of women ; which is given them by the common people, and which they take with them to the grave.

In the next class I place ; *the sensible Woman*. These join to a discerning mind, a heart full of sensibility. They know right well, that there are other men in the world who have merit, besides their husbands. These are cautious in determining ; examin well the characters of those to whom they devote themselves ; and having once made a good choice, place their greatest honor in sincerity and constancy. They are rather sparing of their favors ; but they know that love must be cherishd, for nothing in nature can subsist without nourishment. These are ever careful to preserve a due decorum

rum in life, and to maintain at once, their own reputation, and their husbands honor.

In the third class I place, *the Gallantes* : these make the chief happiness of life to consist in obtaining, without much regard to the opinion of the world, a gallant ; whom they change as often as opportunity and inclination prompt ; observing this restriction however, never to be guilty of the least infidelity to their friend, so long as the connection subsists.

The fourth class consists of *Coquettes* : these are a sort of weather cocks, or if you please, hens ; who are never fixed to any certain point till they begin to rust. So long as they have any remains of charms, they are in continual pursuit of new conquests ; to obtain which they make use of every possible art. And it yet remains a question, which is the most despicable ; he that receives all their favors, or he that is the dupe of his credulity.

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This however is certain, that coquetry itself is founded on falsehood, and is a sure sign of a mean, and treacherous soul. A woman of this sort must either deceive the lover she has, or him she seeks to have: there is no third way. Her whole conduct is founded on wrong principles. Her chief aim is to be lov'd, or at least respected. But she obtains neither one, nor the other. She is the bubble of her own game. Men of sense and spirit despise her, and she can only impose on those ignorant, tasteless wretches, who know of no merit in a lady, superior to that of a common prostitute. A noble conquest!

Now according to this natural plan, in which class, Madam, would a lady of sense and merit, make her election? I leave you to determin. But by the place you bear in my heart, I well know, in which class I would place you, and the most amiable of your sex.

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Had I a daughter, I would wish her discreet, or sensible, or at least gallant; but by no means coquetish. This is the only disposition to which I have an aversion: as nothing is so opposite to sincerity as this. It is to no purpose to say that the jealousy of mankind, frequently magnifies the object, or makes a conduct quite blameless, appear to be coquetry. No, my dearest friend, the eye of a sensible man can never be so grossly deceived. The coquettes are continually complaining of their husbands or lovers jealousy; this is the common cry; and the jealous man is despised, insulted, ridiculed.

The human mind is ever the same thing. Our laws and our customs, our morals and opinions, are full of contradiction. If an injured gentleman seeks his revenge in a duel, and at the hazard of his own life, kills his adversary; his prince orders him to receive his reward from the hands of the hangman. Does he

he have recourse to the law, and refuse to vindicate his honor with his sword; his companions esteem it a disgrace to rank with him, and his prince dismisses him from his service as a coward. Has a husband or a lover the misfortune to meet with a faithless wife or mistress; he is loaded with contempt and ridicule; with the most poignant and disgraceful insults; nay, his very honor suffers by his misfortune. Does the husband or lover entertain suspicions; does he bear a watchful eye over the behaviour of his wife or mistress, or restrain her conduct; every one crys out: what a ridiculous fellow! what a jealous fool! how worthy is such a wretch to be deceivd!

And whence arise this inconsistency? partly from one sex, and partly from the other. The men ridicule and decry jealousy on the one hand, because it is frequently an obstacle in the pursuit of their favorit pleasure; and on the other, because

because they would persuade the ladys their aversion to it is so great, that they cannot possibly be suspected to harbour the least tincture of it. And the ladys exclaim against this abominable vice, because the restraint that any man lays on his wife, is regarded as an insult offerd to the whole sex, and consequently as a crime that deserves the most exemplary punishment. To speak impartially, one original may have many copys. The tyranny of mankind is already shocking; and reason justifys every possible means that can be made use of, to prevent its increase; and to render a groundless jealousy, deservedly ridiculous.

Permit me, Madam, to add one more reflexion. The coquettes object to their husbands or lovers, that they carry their suspicions to excess; that they magnify an ant to an elephant; that a single look, a glance, is sufficient to set them in a rage. But that very look, that glance  
only,



only, is a dagger in the heart of a man that sincerely and tenderly loves: and I think a man of sensibility would not be long in determining, whether his mistress should pass thro the hands of half a dozen huffars, by mere force; or that she should cast one wishful look, or heave one tender sigh for his rival: for the one would be a transient injury, the other a lasting misfortune. Besides, the favorable attention; the stolen glance; the tender regard; which a lady bestows on her lover, even in the midst of a public company, make an essential part of her favors: but the moment they are conferrd on another, they not only lose all their merit, but afford a strong mark of infidelity. And I had much rather a lady would say to me, as Ninon of Enclos said to her lover:

*“ Sir, I have had a great misfortune the  
 “ last night; for I have ceasd to love you,”*

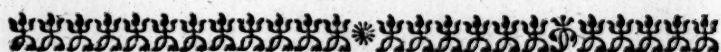
than to deceive me while she is endeavouring at a new conquest. For tho I  
 might

might quarrel with her inconstancy, yet must I necessarily admire her frank and generous behaviour.

What is here said, Madam, cannot in the least regard you: for during the years that I have been devoted to your service, I have never suffered the least suspicion of your sincerity, to enter my mind. And I find in your absence, by a continually increasing anxiety, how dear to my heart, so faithful a mistress is; and shall never cease, to my latest breath, to cherish that pure love, founded on the most perfect esteem, which I now bear you. Do me the favour to give me your opinion of these general reflexions, and where I have erred set me right.

I am, with much stronger affection than it is in the power of words to express, Madam, your, &c.

LET-



# LETTER XX.

To M. von Stúven, at Christian-Erlangen,

*Berlin, ——— 1745.*

My dear Brother,

**D**EATH, who has ever been my greatest enemy, has just now deprived me of my best friend ; my patron, my counsellor, my other father. This was the privy counsellor Jordan ; who was superintendant of all the kings universitys ; director of the hospitals ; and vice president of the roial academy of science in Berlin. His disorder was an incurable, and toward the end of his life, a violent asthma. After eleven months illness, he died last night, in the 45th year of his age ; in the arms of his family, but particularly in those of his near relation, M. Gualthieri, a French preacher ;

preacher ; and one whose sagacity, learning and piety, make him deservedly esteem'd. Alas ! what judgement, what knowledge, what virtue, are gone with my dear Jordan to the grave. O ! that when he took his flight to heaven, he could have left me, like another Elias, his mantle : that he could have left me, his learning and experience in life ! Such a legacy would have been far more valuable to me, than all the riches of Peru.

The public is frequently subject to great prejudice ; and they who enjoy the favor of their prince, are the constant butt of envy and detraction. Now as the merit of M. Jordan could not be denyd, and as no objection could be made to his morals, they maliciously endeavourd to raise suspicions of his belief in Christianity ; and even to insinuate that he had no religion. As it is the nature of detraction to draw poison from the wholsomest fruit, so it inferd from the resolution M. Jordan had



had taken, to quit the pulpit, and leave his congregation at Prenzlau, that he had no longer any regard for religion. The bigots whisperd in the ears of well meaning people, that he had embraced the notions of Spinoza, Hobbs, Toland, and Tindal: and these, imposed on by such bold scandal, readily believd, that he was too honest a man, any longer to profess a religion in which he had no faith. The truth however was this; M. Jordan had been, a long time before, attackd by the disorder which brought him to the grave: his lungs were impaired, and a frequent expectoration of blood, forbade him to irritate them by constant preaching. He had, beside, no extraordinary talents for the pulpit. His curacy scarce brought him in so much as he expended on his library; and there was no prospect, as a Calvinist, of his ever arriving to any preferment in the church. Add to all this, the loss of a wife, whom

he lov'd with a boundless affection, and whose death almost deprived him of reason.

In this disagreeable situation Mr. Jordan was, when his patroness, the baroness of Knyphausen, made him the proposal, to quit an employment that was so inconvenient for him, and to attend her eldest son, on a journey to Holland, England and France. What priest, I ask you very seriously, in his situation, would have refused such an offer? What followd? M. Jordan left his curacy and undertook a learned tour, of which he has given us so copious, entertaining and instructive an account.

As it is not given to me, to search into the heart of man, I cannot pretend to say with what conviction, it pleas'd the Almighty, to enforce the truths of Christianity on the mind of my very worthy friend. But this I must confess, that he was ever very reserv'd on that head; and  
that

that I have known him maintain many other points of learning with more warmth. The morals of Christianity however, he certainly highly esteem'd, and daily practis'd. I know well enough, that you have heard more than once of his supposed infidelity ; and that you will hear more than once of his pretended solemn conversion. This affair has not been conducted without a little pious fraud ; to which it is easy to ascribe, either more or less, good intention. But of this I can assure you, that I did not quit him till a very short time before his death, and that I constantly found him in a pious and christian disposition ; in the true temper of a christian philosopher ; and that I observ'd nothing like a boasted conversion ; or any thing of that low enthusiasm, which so frequently attends a death bed.

A few days before his death, he said to me, among other things, "*Remember !*  
*that*

*“ that I die in the belief of the divine mission  
 “ of Jesus Christ ; and say it to the king,  
 “ when you find a fit opportunity.”*

M. Jordan was not a genius of the first rank ; he was however a man of strong sense ; of a chearful, pleasing disposition ; of very great learning, and of a most excellent heart. He had a real love for learning, and used every possible endeavour to encourage it. His library was his mistress. He spoke well, tho he wrote but indifferently. A too great vivacity made him impatient ; he allowd himself but little time for the choice of his matter, or the manner of expression, and still less for revising what he had once wrote. The Graces are coy, and he must woo them in earnest, who expects to obtain their favors. As for the rest, he was faithful to his prince, whom he almost adored ; warm in his friendship ; tender to his children ; merciful to the distressed : in short, a good servant, a good master,



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a good father, a sincere friend ; and in one word, an excellent citizen.

You will easily believe, Sir, that the loss of such a friend, must affect me most sensibly : and that his death has made a total change in my way of living. This dwelling is now become irksome to me, and I never pass the door of his chamber, without a renewal of my grief. Would I were with you ! in your company I should find a real consolation. Adieu.



L E T T E R XXI.

To my MOTHER, at Hamburgh.

*Berlin, April 10, 1745.*

**T**HAT earnest and tender concern, you at all times express for my welfare, obliges me in duty, my dearest mother, to give you the earliest intelligence of every good fortune that befalls

befalls me; and which I constantly ascribe, in great degree, to those fervent supplications you offer to the divine providence for my prosperity.

I was still in the deepest affliction for the loss of my friend and protector M. Jordan, when count Podewils, first cabinet minister, came and acquainted me, that the king in the midst of the fatigues of a busy campaign, had considered of giving his youngest brother prince Ferdinand, another preceptor\*; and that his majesty, with the approbation of the queen mother, had appointed me to that important office. That the king had directed him to make me the offer, and to allow me three days for consideration, when I was to deliver my answer at the feet of her majesty the queen mother.

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\* Prince Ferdinand was born May 23, 1730, and was therefore at this time in his fifteenth year.

I confess to you, madam, that this offer, gracious as it was, gave me cause for very serious reflection. I see right well, that this post by connecting me more closely with the court, affords me a noble prospect in futurity. But then, at my time of life, to be preceptor to a gay and fiery prince!—To teach him sciences that I have but just begun to learn myself!—Ambition however, armed with a little temerity, soon conquerd these difficultys. I waited on the queen therefore, and told her majesty, that I flatterd myself I was qualifyd to contribute to make her illustrious son, a virtuous and highly accomplishd prince. That I should use all possible labor and attention that his highness might obtain as well the one, as the other of those qualifications. That I accepted this office with the deepest sense of obligation, and with a most lively desire of rendering myself worthy of it; but that I besought

fought their majestys, still to regard the behaviour of the prince. This the queen was graciously pleas'd to promis me; and told me, that in a few days, I should receive my patent, and his majesty's instructions; and in the mean time should prepare myself for my new office; and that she would order an apartment in the palace, near to the prince, to be made ready for me.

So you now see me, my dearest mother, in a quite new scene of life: in which I shall strain every faculty, to answer the expectations of their majestys, the court, and the people; and in which my zeal must supply the defects of ability. I thought this news so interesting that I ought not to omit acquainting you with it; but have so many affairs to regulate, that I cannot possibly now, give you a more circumstantial account. Accept of the professions of my respect, with your wonted goodness, and rest as-



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fured that to the last hour of my life, I shall never cease to be, &c.



L E T T E R    XXII.

To M. von STUVEN, at Erlangen.

*Berlin, June 4, 1745.*

**Y**OU are quite right, my dear brother, when you suppose me in no small perplexity, as well with regard to the manner of treatment, as the plan of instruction, necessary to be observd in educating the young prince committed to my care. But the king, by sending me a very comprehensive draft, has given me a clew to this labyrinth. As his roial highness has already made some progress in the Latin tongue, his majesty does not say any thing about that.

Major

Major Humbert is appointed, under my inspection, to instruct him in the mathematics, and particularly in fortification. M. Sack, first chaplain to the king, in the principles of the christian religion: and M. John des Champs, in philosophy. I for my own part, employ three hours in the morning, and two in the afternoon with him in study; and to these five hours I assign every day a different science; and I instruct him.

1. In history; of which I have drawn up a short plan, under the title of, "A  
" chronological abstract, of a general  
" ecclesiastical and civil history." The first part contains an explanation of the principles of chronology, and of the technical terms therein used. The second, a short abstract of the Jewish history, from the creation of the world, to the destruction of Jerusalem: and then an account of the four ancient monarchys, from their origin, to the division of the Roman

empire; and so on to the translation of the imperial seat to Constantinople: and to this I have added a short account of the other aborigines of the earth; such as the Celtes, Scythians, Chinese, Egyptians, Phœnicians, Carthaginians, Teutronics, and other nations of whom any account has been handed down to us. The third part contains, the history of the middle ages, under the eastern and western empires; together with the history of the Caliphs, Sarazins, Mahometans, and their irruptions, &c. from the reign of Constantine the great, to the restoration of the western empire by Charles the great; and so on to the extinction of that family. The fourth part contains an account of the present state of the empires, kingdoms, and republics of the earth; and of the alterations they have undergone. The fifth, the history of the Germanic empire. The sixth, the history of the house of Brandenburg.

denburg. And the seventh treats of ecclesiastical history. You see well that all this is but a mere skeleton, to which I must endeavour to give flesh and blood, and animate, as well as may be, in the course of my lectures.

2. I instruct him in the principles of geography; and in the use of the different sorts of maps and charts, ancient and modern.

3. In genealogy, of which however I give him but short lectures, that I may not too much burthen his memory.

4. In the laws of nature and nations; where I follow the method of Puffendorf, in his treatise on that subject.

5. In politics, or the art of government; of which I give him very short strictures in writing.

6. In the constitutional principles of the Germanic body; of which I give him an abstract drawn from the small



work of Mascov, intituled *Mascouii principia juris publici*.

7. In rhetoric ; where I endeavour to point out to him, the method of obtaining a correct style ; but more particularly in the composing of German and French letters.

In the hours of relaxation; or when I observe that the prince is not inclined to study, we read some of the best poets and orators, ancient and modern ; remarking as we go on, the beautys, and not unfrequently the faults, that occur ; endeavouring thereby to form his taste. Occasionally too, I inform him of the nature of antiquitys, medals, and other ornamentative parts of learning ; at least so far, that he may not be entirely ignorant of them.

And altho this young prince were at first, rather averse to my instructions ; yet I now perceive, with very great satisfaction, that he begins to relish them  
and

and that he reposes an entire confidence in me. I take great care not to overload his memory, or to confine his attention too closely. At the beginning he had a kind of disgust for learning, all his inclinations were turned to war and hunting. Now he reminds me himself of the hours of study; and hears me with an attention that gives me inexpressible pleasure. History seems to be his favorite study. He takes great pains too, in improving his style, and begins to express himself with uncommon elegance. By what I have hitherto been able to discover of his character, he appears to have a vigorous and active mind, and a noble heart. His education seems to me, to have been somewhat neglected; and his tutor appears to have taken too little pains in giving him that dignity of sentiment so proper for a person of his exalted rank. When I have so far succeeded, as to change some of his present inclinations, which I

flatter myself I shall do, I shall then rejoice with my whole heart. And when I lay down my office, I hope to present the king, with a learned and polite, and what is more, a virtuous prince. To effect this, I spare neither care, nor pains. All my conversation at table, in our walks, and even at our diversions, tend to this point; still, however, concealing the preacher, sometimes under the mask of a friend, and sometimes under the habit of a jester.

Give me, I entreat you, your opinion of this plan without flattery, for I shall be ever willing to alter it, in conformity to your better judgment; as I am by no means prejudiced in favor of my own opinion in these matters. Embrace my dear sister, and believe that there is not a man in the world, who is more perfectly yours than, &c.

I

L E T-



## L E T T E R   X X I I I .

To my BROTHER, at Hamburg.

*Berlin, Dec. 1, 1745.*

**T**O confess the truth, my dear brother, we have been for these three weeks past, in a terrible consternation. How horrible an evil is war. When heroes are ambitious of adorning their brows with laurels, those laurels are constantly stained with human blood, which in my eyes tarnishes all their lustre. And what misery do not others suffer, who are not immediately sacrificed to their ambition! Were I to make a dictionary, I think I should not allow the word War any place in it. I shall here give you a short relation of what has passed in this remarkable period; a period that I shall never forget.

After



After the renowned battles of Friedberg, and Sohr, the king had great reason to believe, that his enemys were sufficiently weakened, and the year so far spent, that he might put his army into winter quarters, retire himself to Berlin, and there after an immeasurable fatigue, enjoy some months repose. Several regiments of infantry therefore returned to garrison Berlin, among which, was that of his royal highness prince Ferdinand, my illustrious pupil. The king was attended by his body guards, who entered the city in a kind of triumph. They had in their train, the cannon taken from the enemy in the last campaign. And each of the horsemen, who marched two and two, bore an Austrian color, or standard: sixty-four of which were taken in the battle of Hohenfriedberg, and about twenty in that of Sohr. The procession was long; and this terrible, and yet, relatively considered, agreeable

fight, gave the inhabitants of Berlin inconceivable pleasur.

I had placed my prince in a balcony, over the gate of the palace, from whence we beheld these triumphant soldiers, who bore the trophys to the military church, there to be offerd to the God of hosts. As I stood in this balcony, by the prince, and partook of the public joy, the cabinet minister M. von Bork, clapt me on the shoullder, and whisperd in my ear; “ *Ab! my dear friend, peace were better than all this.*” Anxiety was strongly markd in his countenance. Surprised, as well by his look as his speech, I askd him the meaning; “ *You will know too soon,*” said he; and turning from me, left me in great perplexity.

That evening there was open table at her majesty the queen mothers. The whole court was brilliant, gay and happy. The king appeard so too: but as I had already some suspicions, I observd his  
majesty

majesty with attention, and I thought I perceivd that his heart was not so gay as his countenance : and that his mind was busyd with a scene very different from that which was then before him. I went however quietly to bed ; but did not remain long there ; for at four in the morning, colonel von Quadt waked me, by knocking at my door. I jumpd out of bed, threw my night gown over me, and open'd the door. He enterd with a perplexd countenance ; and as all the servants lay buryd in sleep, we made a fire with the help of the guard who stood at my door. As soon as we were alone, he said to me : “ There is some im-  
 “ portant enterprize, Sir, now in agita-  
 “ tion. I have receivd orders last night,  
 “ to march with my regiment early in  
 “ the morning, and to take my route by  
 “ Crossen : the whole garrison of Berlin  
 “ has receivd the same orders ; and the  
 “ king will follow in three days. I come  
 to

“ to acquaint the prince with these  
 “ orders : and as I have many affairs to  
 “ regulate with his roial highness, I beg  
 “ that you will wake him directly.”

I slipd my cloaths hastily on, went to the prince, waked him as gently as possible, and told him the business in a few words. He came to us immediately ; and after he had made the necessary dispositions for the regiment, with M. von Quadt, we breakfasted, dresd, and went to the king.

We found a great bustle in the anti-chamber ; it was filld with ministers of state, generals, adjutants, engineers, and other officers ; whose early appearance might make one think that Hannibal was at the gates. I took particular notice of the old prince of Anhalt Dessau ; who with a gloomy and ofttimes angry mien, always entertaind a kindness for me. I approachd the prince, and askd him, very softly, what was the cause of this great and sudden commotion. He told me,  
 that



that the king had discovered a plan of operation, concerted by his enemys, by which they intended to attack him in the winter in five different places at the same time ; and if it were possible, totally to overthrow him. The most considerable of these five armys was to enter the kings dominions by the way of Crossen, and to cut off his communication with Silesia ; the second was to enter Upper Silesia ; and the third the Niederlausitz ; a fourth was to march thro Leipfig and Hall, and penetrate into Magdeburg ; and lastly the fifth, consisting of about 20,000 men, were to cross the Erzgebirgischen circle ; march directly to Berlin and possess themselves of this capital : and by these means they were determind to give a mortal blow to the kings powers.

This project appeard to me, more contemptible than terrible ; more vain than feasible ; and far too operose to afford any apprehensions of great danger. I said therefore

therefore to the prince of Anhalt:

“ Surely the enemy must have forgot,  
 “ that they have to encounter with a  
 “ wary and active prince; who will not  
 “ fail to collect his forces instantly, and  
 “ to form one, or two powerful armys,  
 “ with which he will attack one of these  
 “ five bodys, and in all probability de-  
 “ feat it; and when one of them is dis-  
 “ persd, the rest will seek their safety in  
 “ flight: and that therefore this separa-  
 “ tion of their forces, must necessarily  
 “ tend to our advantage. And if his  
 “ majesty should be obliged to attack  
 “ these divided bodys, one after the  
 “ other, he will check them, now here,  
 “ now there; and in the end will check-  
 “ mate them all, in his own dominions.”

The old prince laughd, and said: “ Why  
 “ this is the very opinion the king and I  
 “ have of the matter, and that is the  
 “ cause of all the movements you now  
 “ see.”

And

And in fact, the prince of Anhalt, set out the next day for Hall, where he assembled an army : and two days after, the king left Berlin and went to Crossen, where prince Henry lay ill of the small-pox. The night before his departure, the king supd with the two queens and the rest of the roial family : there was no one else at table, except the lady of the high steward, and count Podewils. We other courtiers, supd with the ladys at another table ; which was not quite so gay as it had sometimes been. As soon as their majestys rose from table, we went into the dining-hall ; and there we were witnesses of that tender and affectionate farewell, which the king took of the queens, and of his sister and brother. As his majesty was going out of the hall, he saw count Podewils standing near the door, who offerd to kiss his hand, but his majesty embraced him, and said, “ Adieu, my  
“ dear count, take good care of yourself,  
and

“ and if any misfortune should befall  
 “ me, remember that you have lost a  
 “ sincere friend.” These words pierced  
 me to the heart. I approachd, full of  
 grief, to take my leave, and his majesty  
 receivd the offering of my respectful  
 wishes, very graciously. His roial high-  
 ness the prince of Prussia and count Ro-  
 thenburg, were named to attend the  
 king in his coach. As his majesty went  
 out, the prince said to me : “ It is late,  
 “ and we are to set off at break of day ;  
 “ I must not go to bed, but will pass the  
 “ night with my brother Ferdinand : let  
 “ us have a good warm chamber and  
 “ cards.”

I hastend immediately to my princes  
 chamber, and made all ready ; and pre-  
 sently after came their highnesses, at-  
 tended by count Rothenburg, and colonel  
 Kreytzen. We sat down to play, but  
 we playd like machines ; for our attention  
 was every moment taken off, sometimes  
 by



by reflecting on the present critical situation of affairs, and sometimes on the approaching separation. But scarce was this gloomy night half over, before word was brought that the king was up. The princes prepared immediately to attend him, and we to follow them. As we were going out, the prince of Prussia said to M. Kreytzen and me, that he had still at the castle of Wusterhausen, a treasure of old Rhenish wine, that was a legacy from the king his father; and which he was very unwilling should be drank out by the Pandures; he ordered us therefore to write to the governor of the castle, that on the first appearance of danger, he should send it to us, at Berlin.

We found very few courtiers in the antichamber. A friend whispered in my ear, that his majesty had left orders for 500 horse, to hold themselves in readiness, to escort the court to Stettin, in case that general Grühn, should advance  
into

into the neighbourhood of Berlin. The king soon appeared ; and never did I see him more gay, with a more pleasing countenance, and higher spirits, than at that moment : full of pleasantry, he seated himself in the coach, with his brother and general Rothenburg ; and attended by our most ardent wishes, set off full gallop.

No sooner was the king gone than the court and the city of Berlin put on a gloomy, anxious, and dejected countenance ; which however was soon turned into the face of war. We heard from every side reports of the enemys approach : every day these reports grew louder, and increased our dangers and our fears. We had in the town, a garrison of four battalions ; about 2000 recruits, which were already exercised, and of which two other battalions were formed ; one of which was commanded by colonel Kreytzen, and the other by major Jarriges of the cadets.

We

We had beside, a good battalion of militia, commanded by general Kratch : about four squadrons of cavalry and hunters, and lastly the cadet corps with some engineers : and in case of necessity, the king had given orders to draw from Potsdam, his first battalion of guards, and the unincorporated troops, which made part of that garrison. And to put matters in a still better postur of defence, our generals thought proper to supply 16,000 of the inhabitants with arms from the arsenal, and to divide them into companys, that were exercised every day : and these inhabitants of the capital of a war-like state, and which was born in the lap of war, so to speak, applyd themselves to military operations, with a zeal and ability that surpased all imagination. General count Haak was commander of the town. We had beside mareschal von Schmettau, field general of the ordnance ; his roial highness the margrave Henry ; colonel  
von

von Reisewitz ; and many other old and able officers. A plan of defence was drawn up ; the town was divided into four quarters ; a place of rendezvous was fixd, for the garrison to repair to on the first alarm ; and proper orders given to the troops, for their conduct, in case of necessity.

Berlin is, as you know, of a prodigious extent ; half of it is encompassd with a brick wall, and half with a strong pallisade. Before each gate was erected a kind of redoubte, which was planted with cannon : and a very respectable fort was constructed on an eminence near the town, which commanded the country round about : at different places behind the town wall, was erected a sort of scaffold, from whence the garrison might fire on the enemy : on the outside of the pallisade, a wide trench was made, and by throwing the earth that came out of it, over the pallisade, a good breast-work was formd.



All these fortifications were planted in different parts with cannon; and they were conducted with so great alacrity, that in fourteen days the whole was completed. I often accompanyd my prince, who found great pleasur in viewing these preparations. One day, about noon, we met the marquis of V\*\* the French minister, who saluted the prince, and askd him what they were going to do. To fortify the town, answerd the prince, and you marquis, what are you going to do? To fortify also, but it will be my stomach, gracious prince, replyd the marquis laughing, and took leave of the prince. It was manifest he had no great opinion of our works: and to say the truth, their security appeard to me very doubtful. The town was too large, the fortifications too slender, and the garrison too weak, to make a defence against an attack, even tho it were not a regular one. All these precautions could at most, only  
 serve

serve to prevent a surprise, or to protect against the ravage of irregular troops ; and to keep up the spirits of the people. We were three whole weeks in perfect peace : our hunters and dragoons scoured the country all round and discoverd nothing. But at the same time we could not hear the least news of the king, and that gave us the greatest uneasiness. But as I was returning one night to the palace, I observed an uncommon hurry in the streets ; and on entring my princes chamber, he told me, there was bad news : that general Grúhn was in full march, and that he would be in a very few days before Berlin. This news surpris'd me prodigiouſly : I pretended, however, to pay no regard to it, and we went unconcernedly to bed. But at four in the morning somebody knockd violently at my door : I jumpd out of bed in a great fright ; and which was still greater, when on opening the door, I receivd a letter from the

governor of Wusterhausen, acquainting me that they were preparing quarters for the Austrian troops, and that he had sent me the wine. On going down stairs, my fears were again augmented by seeing a great number of waggons stand before the gate of the palace, in which they were packing the state archives, in order to convey them to a place of greater safety. But the old bookseller and gazetteer Haude, completed my consternation, for he came running to me in his night gown, and told me that all was lost; for the enemy was within one, or at the most, two marches of the town. I slipped on my cloaths and hastend to count Haak, who had just before received the news, and who appeared not to be quite so composed, as I could have wished. I returned from thence to the palace, waked my prince, and told him how matters stood: and we immediately set about the necessary preparations for our departure.

departure. This was a dreadful day! The inhabitants of the suburbs came crowding into the city; those of the city were busyd in finding out places, where to conceal their most valuable effects. Some left the town; others would have followd them, but could find no carriages. Nothing was to be seen in the streets, but coaches, carts, waggons, horses, loaded with bales, boxes, trunks, &c. Dejection sat in every countenance; amazement stared in every eye; on every side was heard the cry of distraction, and every house afforded a scene of confusion and dismay.

This lasted for three days together, which were the most disconsolate, that in my life I ever saw. The reports daily increas'd, and our danger seemd to augment every moment. What added greatly to our mortification, was; to have in the midst of us, the ambassador of a neutral power, but who in himself was by no



means neutral: and who in the midst of our greatest distress, appeared at court, at the theatre, and in every house, with an air of triumph and insultation: and took great pleasure in propagating and augmenting, every report that could add to our dread and despondency.

Had our generals known the real strength of count Grühns army, they would have certainly never had the least concern at his approach: on the contrary, our garrison joined by those of Potsdam and Spandau, would have gone out to meet him, and choosing some advantageous post, would have waited his coming, and no doubt, would easily have persuaded him to return the same way he came. For his whole army consisted but of 8 or 9,000 men, the greatest part of which too, were irregulars; and we had been made to believe that he had under his command, full 20,000 men.

We remained in this dreadful anxiety,  
three

three days and nights, which appeared to us as so many years. Our concern for the king, was nothing less than that for ourselves. But I perceive, my dear brother, that my letter is already of an extravagant length; and the remembrance of this scene so much disconcerts me, that I find myself quite unable to proceed: by the next post however, I shall acquaint you with the principal circumstances of the lucky change of this scene of terror and confusion: in the mean time, permit me to recover myself, and to embrace you affectionately. I am, &c.



# L E T T E R XXIV.

To my BROTHER, at Hamburg.

*Berlin, Dec. 10, 1745.*

My dear Brother,

**I**T was on a Friday afternoon, in the midst of the greatest confusion, and while many of the principal inhabitants were flying from the capital, that count Podewils receivd a courier, with an account of the total defeat of the enemys forces near Hennerdorf. I shall say no more of it here. You will find a circumstantial account in the gazettes, the mercurys, and other news papers, and I have no desire to encroach on the province of those writers.

The court was that evening at the her majesty the reigning queens. A dark cloud hung over the whole assembly, and  
there

there was not the least hopes of seeing it disperſd. As count Podewils came into court, he met in the antichamber, the miniſter of malign aſpect, of whom I have made mention in my laſt letter : who aſkd him, with an air of pleaſantry, if he had not receivd ſome news. The count put on a ſorrowful countenance, and told him, in a complaining tone, that he had. Is it good news ? ſays the other haſtily : you may judge by this, replyd the count, putting the letter into his hand : the ambaffador went to one of the tables, and open'd the paper. But ſcarce had he read the firſt line, when his countenance changed ; he turn'd pale ; a kind of convulſion ſet all the muſcles of his face in motion ; his ſpeech fail'd him, and he had but juſt power to aſk the count to help him to paper and a pencil : which when he had got, he ſat down to the table, and with a trembling hand, copyd the date, and the principal circumſtances



stances of the victory. Never did I see a man so suddenly, and so completely confounded. He could only make his compliments to the queen en passant, and disappeared instantly. He went directly to the princess of \* \* \*, to sup; where he showed the strongest tokens of despair, and could not eat a morsel.

As soon as shame and rage had drove this evil genius away, count Podewils went into the queens chamber, and acquainted her with the news; which her majesty immediately communicated to the whole court; and the same evening, in order to recover the spirits of the people, it was made known in every part of the town. The joy that this news occasioned is not to be describd. The inhabitants of Berlin resembled those wretched mariners, who have been exposed for many days and nights, to the rage and howlings of a tempest; but at length the wind subsides; the thunder rolls at a distance;

distance ; the clouds disperse ; once more they see the light of heaven ; and already enjoy in imagination, bright and peaceful days. And in fact, hope did not this time deceive us ; for from that day forward, we had a continued series of happy news ; and peace, at last, completed our felicity.

The next day we received the confirmation of the battle of Hennersdorf. Two days after, came news of the taking of Bautzen, where the king found a large magazine, and made several prisoners. In a few days more, an account of the further progress of his majesty's arms, and of the retreat of prince Charles of Lorrain, who had retired to Bohemia. Another courier brought us the news of the old prince of Anhalt Dessaus passing thro Hall, and the Saalkrais, and entering Saxony. Another, the account of the taking of Leipzig by this prince, to whom the magistrates brought the keys,  
and

and surrendred at discretion. From day to day, our good fortune increas'd; and the return of prince Henry, perfectly recoverd from his disorder, filld every heart with joy. Some of the fugitives returnd to the capital; others remaind in their retreats, waiting the final event of the war.

Some days had pass'd without receiving any particular news; but one evening, as I was returning early to the palace, from supping with a lady of my acquaintance in the new town, my coach had scarce got half way thro that beautiful road, which they call the lime walk; when I perceivd at a great distance, the light of fifty torches, passing over the knights bridge, and which seemd to come towards me. This I took at first for a funeral; but these torches pass'd like lightning, and jump'd about like an ignis fatuus. I orderd my coachman to drive faster on; and as I came nearer I  
heard

heard the found of a great number of post horns ; and presently after saw this long troop stop before the palace of the margrave Henry. There I got out, and entering the palace saw all in motion ; and enquiring the cause, found that the marquis Descouville, one of the lords of the queens bedchamber, who had servd in this campaign as a volunteer, had been dispatchd by the king, as a courier, with the news of a complete victory, gaind by his majesty's forces under the command of the prince of Anhalt Dessau, over the Saxon army, near a village calld Kesselsdorff.

The marquis did not arrive at the gates of Berlin before eight in the evening, and as it was quite dark, the postmaster provided him with fifty postilions, and as many wax torches ; with which he made his entrance into Berlin. The report of his arrival was presently spread throughout the whole town : and the inhabitants



habitants of those streets thro which he pass'd to the palace, made bonfires before their doors, and illumind their house, which together made a very pleasing appearance.

After the marquis had waited on the two queens, and the princes and princesses, he thought himself bound in duty, to wait on the margrave Henry, and his margravess, the son-in-law and daughter of the old prince of Anhalt, who had obtained this victory. And there I had from him, a circumstantial account of it. I went from thence to the palace, to offer my congratulations to the queens and the princes and princesses; and found the whole court in the highest transports of exultation.

The next day brought us a confirmation, and the detail of this battle, with a list of the killd and prisoners. The day after we had an account of the taking of Dresden, and of the retreat of the king of Poland,

Poland, from thence to Prage. Soon after we heard of the kings arrival at the capital, where his majesty, after so great fatigue, allowd himself a short repose, and causd Te Deum to be sung, and an opera to be performd. At last count Podewils receivd orders to repair to Dresden: and we immediately conjecturd, that peace was not far off; and in fact our conjectures were not ill founded; for this, so greatly wishd, and so necessary peace, was soon after concluded in the capital of Saxony: under the auspices of the king our sovereign; and by the indefatigable labors of the cabinet minister count Podewils; the Imperial minister count Kaunitz, the British minister Mr. Villiers; and the Saxon minister M. von Búláu.

I shall say no more of this peace here. You will find a full account of it in the public papers. We expect soon the return  
of

of his majesty, and our hearts already go forth to meet him.

This, my dear brother, is the short history of our danger, our distress, our deliverance, and once more returning peace. I flatter myself that this relation, long as it is, will not displease you; for we have a natural desire to know the circumstances attending on the most remarkable events of our own times; but more especially of those, where happiness, so unexpectedly rises out of misery. I have given you this account, in as plain and concise a manner as I could. Your imagination will supply what is wanting, and will decorate it with those ornaments, which you so well know how to give. Adieu.

END OF VOL. I.